

Channel link could bring 100,000 jobs

British Steel and its six partners in a consortium advocating the building of a road and rail tunnel across the Channel are considering issuing American-style bonds to finance the £3,800m project if it goes ahead. The consortium says the project would create about 100,000 jobs during the five years of construction.

China announces sound progress

Mr Zhao Ziyang, the Chinese Prime Minister, told the national Congress in Peking that China was now on the road to sound economic progress thanks to the newly introduced policies. But the leadership would take several years to complete.

'Mole' hunt ruled out

The Security Commission under Lord Diplock will shortly present to Mrs Margaret Thatcher a report urging that she keep Sir Winston Churchill's system of positive vetting of civil servants in sensitive posts. It will argue strongly against another Whitehall 'mole' hunt.

£10 parking fine is coming

The fixed penalty parking fine will go up from £6 to £10 next spring throughout England and Wales and fixed fines will be extended to other kinds of motoring offences.



New frontrunner for Labour post

Mr James Morrice, former head of Acas, emerged as the frontrunner for the post of general secretary of the Labour Party. He made a late application and is expected to win the backing of Mr Michael Foot.

State industries face inquiries

Each nationalised industry will be the subject of at least one big investigation by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission every four years. Mr Nicholas Ridley, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, told the Commons.

Labour threat to church schools

Plans to abolish the powers of church schools to set the curriculum, appoint staff and regulate pupil intake are published by the Socialist Education Service. Mrs Caroline Benn, if accepted as Labour Party policy, it could signal the demise of denominational schools.

Frank Field taken ill

Mr Frank Field, aged 39, Labour MP for Birkenhead, was taken to St Thomas's Hospital, London, last night after becoming ill in his office at Dean's Yard, Westminster. He complained of severe chest pains but was later discharged.

Val Gielgud dies

Mr Val Gielgud, former head of BBC radio drama and brother of Sir John Gielgud, has died aged 81. He worked in radio drama from 1929 until his retirement in 1963.

Table with 2 columns: Page, Content. Rows include: Leader page, 11; Letters: On university cuts, from Dr D. O'Brien, and others: overcrowded prisons, from Lord Hunt; spy stories, from Sir Stuart Hampshire; Leading articles: Prisons; University tenure; Features, pages 9, 10; Syrian killers with a Kilburn bank account; Labour's attitude to Europe, by Eric Heffer, MP; Helping the British; Des Wilson writes on Britain's housing crisis; Obituary, page 12; Mr Val Gielgud, Dr Richard Hunter; Home News 2-4; Overseas 5-8; Arts 12; Bridge 13; Business 14-18; Church 19; Court 20; Crossword 21; Diary 22; Events 24.

BL gamble to end tea break strike fails

From Clifford Webb, Midlands Industrial Correspondent

BL's gamble to end the three-week-old tea break strike at its car plant at Longbridge, Birmingham, failed yesterday. Only a few hundred of the 2,200 on strike defied their unions and returned to work. No cars were produced during the day and many workers left to rejoin the strike. By early evening official pickets had blocked all the factory gates and jubilation at the management's intervention had only intensified the dispute. No deliveries of components would be allowed and no finished cars would leave the plant. The management had announced that the plant would be open for business as usual and was confident that sufficient disciplined strikers would arrive to allow production to resume. But it had misread the mood of its workers, and the attempt to bypass their unions rebounded when another 1,000 joined the strike. They were among the 6,000 other workers recalled for what the management hoped would be a big revolt against the continuation of the dispute that has cost BL 18,000 cars worth more than £65m. A delighted Mr Jack Adams, the Longbridge convenor, insisted that by recalling the men laid off, the management had broken the back of the strike. The men laid off had not had a chance to hold meetings and express their views, he said. They went home early in the dispute. But they got their chance today when management recalled them and, as a result, about 1,000 voted to join the strike. He said the company had urged its employees to vote with their feet by reporting for duty. Well, they have voted with their feet. The works committee, he said, had deliberately withheld pickets from the morning shift so that no one could say that they had tried to coerce their members into staying away. There was no coercion. The men at the gates simply handed out copies of a letter from the works committee. The letter urged those workers who were not prepared to accept the cut in relaxation time from 52 to 49 minutes a day to hold meetings in the plant at once and vote to join the strike. None of the three final assembly tracks was able to restart yesterday. A few finished cars were sent off for sale, but they were only cars on which some rectification work had been completed. During a day of claims and counter-claims, it was at first reported that one Metro assembly track had restarted. But it was confirmed later by the company that that was only a trim track operating at a slow speed and manned by only 50 workers. BL said that 700 strikers from all parts of Longbridge had reported for work at 8 am, but about 300 left later on. Vauxhall Motors have rejected a union peace plan aimed at ending a strike by 400 foremen at the company's plant at Ellesmere Port, Cheshire. Leaders of the Association of Scientific, Technical, and Managerial Staffs suggested a rota lay-off scheme that would save the company the cash equivalent of the 15 jobs which are to go as part of a staff reduction. But the company said yesterday that this was not considered a workable alternative. It was said to be impracticable because it was intended that the plant at Ellesmere Port, which has been on short time, should return to full-time working as quickly as possible.

Soviet shortages spur attack on West

From Michael Binyon, Moscow, Nov 30

The state-controlled media did not present Soviet policies in a well-argued way, and were full of formalism and "empty verbiage". Pravda said almost nothing had been done to put into effect the decision of the party congress in February to campaign against party ideologists for complacency and ineffectiveness and said they should not be afraid to criticize shortcomings. The country's economies use this as evidence. The main weapon in politics and propaganda is the truth. Pravda said. It added that in the tense international situation the West, especially the United States, was waging a fierce struggle against the Soviet Union and was trying to blacken the achievements of "real socialism". It was carrying out subversive activities against Poland, Cuba, Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos, and was trying to shake the socialist community, which it regarded as the main obstacle stopping it recovering its lost positions in the world. All this demanded a tough response. The Soviet Union had to fight more aggressively against its class enemies, and defeat any notion of pacifism at home. It had also to step up its counter-propaganda at home abroad. The class enemy, using all means, is trying to impose on part of the population his own view of a whole series of pressing domestic and international life. Pravda said, clearly referring to Soviet anger at the large number of people still listening to foreign radio commentators on Poland and the sluggish Soviet economy. The article follows previous warnings that the country was losing the battle for the hearts and minds of the younger generation, and comes after several top-level conferences chaired by Mr Suslov which outlined the present new campaign. The newspaper sharply attacked official propaganda for being dry and lifeless, too full of statistics and unable to entertain any emotions or response from ordinary people.

Reselected Cunningham resigns

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

Mr George Cunningham, one of Labour's most respected middle-ranking front bench spokesmen, yesterday resigned from the Labour Party in protest against growing intolerance and extremism. He told a Commons press conference: "Throughout the country, ordinary, decent members of the party are dropping out. Yet there is no sign that the party is going to rid itself of the deadly combination of Tony Benn's messianic fervour at the top and intolerant conspiracy at the base." Mr Cunningham, aged 50, was one of the prime architects of the 40 per cent referendum on the Labour Government's proposals for Scottish devolution in March 1979. The Labour Government fell two months later. He said yesterday: "As of now, cease to be a member of the Labour Party and become an Independent Labour Member of Parliament." Although he heaped high praise on the Social Democrats for giving voters a chance to



Mr Paul Nitze (left), the American negotiator, being welcomed by his Soviet counterpart, Mr Yuli Kvitsinsky, at the Russian mission in Geneva yesterday for the start of the arms control talks (Secret meetings, page 6).

Engineering workers accept 5%

By David Felton, Labour Reporter

The chances of success for the Government's pay restraint policy improved yesterday when leaders of the second largest union accepted a 5.06 per cent offer, covering the pay for almost two million manual workers in engineering. The employers had made clear that it was their final offer, and ministers will feel that yesterday's decision by the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers indicates a "new sense of realism" in the minds of industrial workers. The union's decision came after a 40-minute meeting at the Commons to discuss the allocation of broadcasting time at a further meeting in the next three weeks. The debate was made after Dr David Owen, the SDP's parliamentary leader, tried in vain to secure an emergency Commons debate on a matter which he said "went to the roots of parliamentary democracy". Although the SDP had been offered talks, it was clear last night that it will have a fight to secure anything like the share of time that it would regard as fair, either for party political broadcasts during 1982 or for election broadcasts and coverage in television news bulletins, which it regards as even more vital during the next election campaign. Dr Owen, after his request for a debate was refused by the Speaker, called a press conference to complain of the existing arrangements, by which broadcasting time offered by the BBC and IBA is divided on the basis of recent election results. The formula, which has been adjusted at different times, at present allows parties with at least 20 MPs to have 15 minutes of television for every two million votes. It takes no account of by-election success

SDP calls for more political air-time

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

The established political parties and the broadcasting authorities moved quickly last night to smother complaints by the Social Democrats of a "curfew" of political broadcasting time which would deny the new party access to television or radio before the next general election. The Committee on Party Political Broadcasting, attended by the chief whips of five major political parties and the directors-general of the BBC and IBA, agreed at a 40-minute meeting at the Commons to invite the SDP to discuss the allocation of broadcasting time at a further meeting in the next three weeks. The debate was made after Dr David Owen, the SDP's parliamentary leader, tried in vain to secure an emergency Commons debate on a matter which he said "went to the roots of parliamentary democracy". Although the SDP had been offered talks, it was clear last night that it will have a fight to secure anything like the share of time that it would regard as fair, either for party political broadcasts during 1982 or for election broadcasts and coverage in television news bulletins, which it regards as even more vital during the next election campaign. Dr Owen, after his request for a debate was refused by the Speaker, called a press conference to complain of the existing arrangements, by which broadcasting time offered by the BBC and IBA is divided on the basis of recent election results. The formula, which has been adjusted at different times, at present allows parties with at least 20 MPs to have 15 minutes of television for every two million votes. It takes no account of by-election success

Fares ruling may aid Heseltine

By Our Political Correspondent

The House of Lords judgment on the Greater London Council's decision to increase fares, whichever way it goes, could resolve the Government's difficulties over short-term rates legislation. Ministers have decided that the Lords' judgment, expected this week, could be used to get them off the political hook created by Conservative backbench opposition to the referendum provision of the Local Government Bill. They argue that transport costs are by far the biggest cause of council overspending, and government action therefore hinges on the Lords ruling in the GLC appeal. Such a solution, enables Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, to use the Lords as a face-saver, knowing full well that his own GLC would never accept his present plan to force ratepayers on councils wishing to levy supplementary rates. Ministers say that no large-scale legislation will be required if the Lords reject the GLC appeal to finance a fare cut of a quarter by levying a £123m supplementary rate. It would be argued that the law might need to be clarified and extended for the benefit of other councils, and that the GLC might need indemnification for its technical offences. On the other hand, if the Lords reject the Denning judgment, given in the Court of Appeal on November 10, Mr Heseltine could accept the inevitable need to clarify a confused legal situation. Either way, Mr Heseltine could use the Lords judgment as a pretext for firm action, and either way he could save his original Bill by substituting the necessary amendments for the referendum clauses. Lords hearing, page 4

French Finance Minister urges brake on reform

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, Nov 30

M. Jacques Delors, the French Finance Minister, has called for a slowing in the pace of socialist reform. Until recently he cut a rather isolated figure as the apostle of dialogue and moderation in a government and party where the advocates of confrontation and violent change seemed to call the tune. Even President Mitterrand, party ideologist and pragmatist, had threatened the employers and the Opposition recently with a radical government course, if present policies were to fail. But the Finance Minister, who openly confesses his social democratic views, has held his ground, and although he has lost some battles, like the scope and speed of nationalization, he has won others. And he is beginning to feel that the turn of events in economic events is proving him right. The successful devaluation of the franc last September, which was his doing, the international cooperation he secured which made it possible, and the confidence he enjoys in economic and business circles at home have consolidated his position and his authority in the cabinet with all but those who, as he put it in a radio debate, "talk as if they were three miles away from reality". Talk by some of his Marxist colleagues in the party and the Government about an economic counter-revolution, and about a capitalist plot to sabotage the policy of reform, had taken off from Hargrove's firm last night that the Duke of Edinburgh was at the controls of an Andover at the Queen's Flight when it was involved in a near miss with a jumbo jet carrying 200 passengers to Miami. The accident happened after a British Airways Boeing 747 had taken off from Heathrow airport on Friday and was climbing at 300 mph, according to reports. The pilot took evasive action after seeing an "unidentified" object fly across his field of vision. An inquiry is to be held as to why the near-miss happened. The Duke will be required to submit a report.

ILSO

Diary

How true is it that today's concert-goers won't come to hear today's music? Last month at the Royal Festival Hall the ILSO gave two concerts featuring Tippett's Triple Concerto, a work commissioned by the Orchestra for its 75th anniversary, to full houses and an enthusiastic reception. Waltzing into the New Year: Why not join in our traditional New Year's Day Concert of music by the Strauss family. It provides the perfect opportunity for audience and orchestra alike to enjoy the unique combination of Viennese warmth and sentiment, with the friendliness and informality of the Proms. Join the ILSO, the leader of the ILSO, will again direct from the violin. On with the Dance: Two masterpieces of 20th century ballet music will be performed on December 7: Ravel's Daphnis et Chloe and Stravinsky's Rite of Spring. The opportunity of hearing the complete score for Daphnis et Chloe is rare and should not be missed. The conductor will be Eduardo Mata. Compelling Performance: Few of those who heard Ida Haendel's performance of the Sibelius Violin Concerto with the ILSO at the Proms this year will want to lose the opportunity of hearing the same work and soloist on December 15. It is one of the great performances of the 20th century, yet more compelling than Heifetz's well remembered truly historic interpretation. Full details in the adjoining column. At the Fairfield Halls, Croydon: Saturday 5 December 8.00 WAGNER: Overture 'Die Meistersinger' BRUCH: Violin Concerto No. 1 in G minor SCHUBERT: Symphony No. 9 'Great' Michael Davis, Violin Arpad Joo, Conductor £5.00 £4.50 £4.00 £3.50 £2.50 Tickets from Box Office (01) 688 9281 and usual agents. At the Royal Festival Hall: Monday 7 December 8.00 RAVEL: Daphnis et Chloe - complete ballet STRAVINSKY: The Rite of Spring London Symphony Chorus Eduardo Mata, Conductor £7.00 £6.00 £5.00 £4.40 £3.70 £3.00 £2.00 Sponsored by Rank Xerox Tuesday 15 December 8.00 CHAVES: Sinfonia India SIBELIUS: Violin Concerto in D minor IVORAK: Symphony No. 9 'From the New World' Ida Haendel, Violin Eduardo Mata, Conductor £7.00 £6.00 £5.00 £4.40 £3.70 £3.00 £2.00 Tickets from Box Office (01) 928 3131 and usual agents. At the Royal Albert Hall: Friday 1 January 7.30 NEW YEAR'S DAY CONCERT Music by the Strauss family led from the violin by John Goughall. Seat prices: £5.50 to £1.00. Tickets from Box Office (01) 588 8212 and usual agents. Sponsored by Lens Mosey/Laurels Ltd.

Duke was pilot in near miss

Buckingham Palace confirmed last night that the Duke of Edinburgh was at the controls of an Andover at the Queen's Flight when it was involved in a near miss with a jumbo jet carrying 200 passengers to Miami. The accident happened after a British Airways Boeing 747 had taken off from Heathrow airport on Friday and was climbing at 300 mph, according to reports. The pilot took evasive action after seeing an "unidentified" object fly across his field of vision. An inquiry is to be held as to why the near-miss happened. The Duke will be required to submit a report.







NEWS IN SUMMARY

Car 'race' ended in death

Mr Donald Ranger, Managing director of the Heron Motor Corporation, was killed when he lost control of his Porsche turbo car and crashed after "racing" with another sports car at speeds of up to 120 mph. A court was told yesterday.

The driver of the other car, a Corvette Stingray, was Ricardo Tommaso, a film producer. Mr Tommaso, aged 38, of Mulberry Trees, Shepperton, Middlesex, denied causing Mr Ranger's death by reckless driving.

Mr Barnaby Waylen, for the prosecution, said at Kingston Crown Court that the crash happened at night as the two cars sped out of London on the A316 at Haslemere, Middlesex.

Mr Tommaso was alleged to have told an off-duty policeman: "We were doing 120 mph and it was getting bloody silly, so I hung back. Then this happened."

Mr Ranger, aged 49 of The Avenue, Sunbury, Middlesex, was thrown onto the opposite carriageway. He died next day.

The case continues today.

£39,906 awarded for wrist injury

A husband who cannot sleep with his wife because of a wrist injury was awarded £39,906 damages in the High Court in London yesterday.

Mr Justice Goff said a former carpenter's labourer, Mr John Blewett, of Dartford, Kent, was afraid his wife would lie on his injured wrist when she turned over in her sleep. He was now capable only of light clerical work.

Mr Blewett was awarded the damages with costs, against his former employers, the Greater London Council, who admitted liability for an accident when he fell into a trench.

Save the Turkey plea

Animal welfare societies have appealed to the public to "choose a cruelty-free Christmas" by going without the traditional turkey. Urging people to have "a nut and mushroom roast," the societies say: "Millions of birds are reared every year and fattened as quickly as possible."

Road challenge

As rail travellers yesterday paid an extra 9.5 per cent on fares, the Green Line coach company, aiming to take a bigger slice of the south-east travel market, promised to try to hold its fares for a full year.

Children evacuated

East Hill, in Colchester, was sealed off yesterday and hundreds of schoolchildren were evacuated after leaking petrol flooded underground telephone cable tunnels. An "anti-spark" vehicle was used to pump out the lethal petrol.

World Cup ahoy!

Britannia Ferries, which operate the only direct car ferry link between Plymouth and Santander, Spain, is to put a second ship on the route in May, in time for the World Cup finals, increasing capacity by half.

REPORTING AWARD YOU CAN WIN £1,000

The Van den Berghs & Jurgens Reporting Award is open to any journalist or writer employed by or contributing to, newspapers, journals, radio or television in the UK.

The £1,000 prize is awarded to the entrant whose work has, in the opinion of the independent panel of judges, been judged to be the best published or broadcast during the 12 months ending 31 December 1981. Closing date for entries is 15 January 1982.



Last year the Award was won by David Edwards of BBC Radio London who wrote and produced "Too Little... Too Late?" a comprehensive programme on rickets and vitamin D.

A copy of the Rules and Conditions of Entry is available from:

The Nutrition Education Service, Van den Berghs & Jurgens Ltd, Sussex House, Burgess Hill, West Sussex BN15 9AW. Tel. Burgess Hill 465000 Ext. 2120 (std 04446)



Bird watchers mesmerized by the Hudsonian Godwit, an extreme rarity from north-western Canada, which flew into Exeter when blown off course a week ago. The bird (left) keeps company with a Black-tailed Godwit. The photograph was taken on a Canon reflex camera with 1280mm focal length lens, Tn X film rated at 850 ASA.

Another Huxley takes up arms in the defence of Darwin

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

The annual address by the president of the Royal Society, an event that under its ancient charter takes place on St Andrew's Day, is usually a résumé of the health of scientific research in Britain.

Yet in his first address since his election to the society's presidency Sir Andrew Huxley, FRS, yesterday strayed into a more sensitive area. He chose to take sides in the controversy over evolution that has been spreading among biologists for the past two years.

And, as his ancestor, T. H. Huxley, did in 1860, defying the wrath of the bishops, Sir Andrew put forward a robust defence of the Darwinian explanation of evolution.

The present dispute is a far more complicated argument than the one that raged in the nineteenth century. The creationist movement was given the fillip when President Reagan expressed sympathy for that cause, but that is not the group bothering Sir Andrew Huxley. His concern is with the assault on orthodox theory from within the ranks of scientists.

He said: "I found myself being asked by scientists, from the biological as well as the physical side, whether zoologists had ceased to believe in evolution."

"The public is still being given the impression on all sides that scientists no longer believe in evolution. That is so far from the truth, and many of the arguments that have been used are so fallacious, that I have felt that I ought to take the opportunity to put the record straight."

Most of the arguments depend, directly or indirectly, on contrasting the "sudden" evolutionary changes put forward by Eldridge and Gould with the gradual change of Darwin.

The Eldridge and Gould theory was elaborated by Dr Niles Eldridge, of the New York Museum of Natural History, and Dr Stephen Jay Gould, of Harvard University.

They maintain that modern examination of fossils far from confirms the gradual change of orthodox theory. They say the fossils tell a story of long periods of stability punctuated by short periods of rapid change when new forms of organisms suddenly appeared.

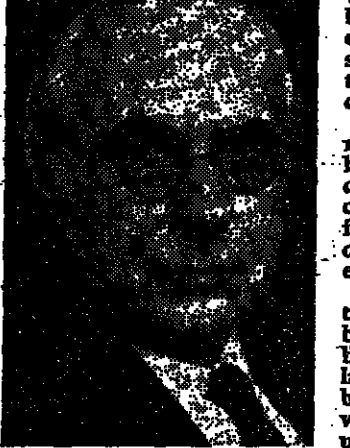
The president of the Royal Society said that the Eldridge and Gould argument could be accommodated in a Darwinian framework. The examples quoted showed measurements of fossils from geological layers separated in time by intervals of about 100,000 years.

He suggested that Eldridge and Gould were being misled when they said that a time interval of that order was a "geological micro-second". If a period of 10,000 or 100,000 years was to be considered by a micro-second comparison, then the whole age of the earth had to be compressed into less than one second, which was not a sensible scale on which to think about geological processes.

He criticized other arguments in a similar vein. But he added that plenty of difficulties still existed because there was almost no fossil evidence for the origin of the main divisions of the early animal kingdom.

Moreover, the question of the origin of life on earth, barely touched on by Darwin, lies in the realms of speculation and analogy. And the biggest problem for biology, which is too often swept aside by the competition, is the existence of consciousness.

Much work is needed to advance the understanding of the mechanisms of evolution.



Sir Andrew Huxley: "Putting the record straight".

Boy's cycle found in murder hunt

From Arthur Osman, Birmingham

Police from the West Midlands, Leicestershire and Warwickshire were searching last night for the killer of John Hudson, aged 13, of Sutton Coldfield, whose cycle was found yesterday at Bedworth, Warwickshire, more than ten miles from where he disappeared.

The boy, set off to cycle home from school through Sutton Park on Friday. His naked body was found near Sibson, Leicestershire, on Saturday. He had been sexually assaulted. A council spokesman found the bicycle by the A44 Coventry-Nuneaton road and police believe the killer took it there in an estate car or van.

A search of the 2,000 acres of Sutton Park and several pools by police diving teams failed to find the boy's clothing. Police think that he was waylaid as he cycled home and was then driven to a remote spot in the park, where he was assaulted and killed.

The caller who shot Mr Roy Harter, a millionaire businessman of Hutton Mount, Brentwood, Essex, may have been a woman, police believe (Our Colchester Correspondent writes).

The doorman shot dead at a ballroom in north London on Sunday night was named yesterday as Mr Michael Sullivan, aged 30 (the Press Association reports). Police say that Mr Sullivan, of Huron Road, Tooting, was shot in the face after he "became involved in an altercation" with two men at the Gaiety Ballroom.

TUC and Treasury clash on ILO report

By David Felton, Labour Reporter

The Government and trade union leaders clashed yesterday over a report from the International Labour Office which is critical of government actions during the 21-week Civil Service pay dispute earlier this year.

Unions said the report upheld their complaint that the Government was in breach of an international convention during the dispute. Britain is a signatory to the Labour Relations (Public Service) Convention, 1978.

A statement from the Treasury, which earlier this month took over responsibility for Civil Service pay, said it was "glad to learn that there have been no breaches of the convention, although some comments in the report are critical".

The complaint, lodged with the ILO by the TUC at the height of the nine Civil Service unions' campaign of selective strikes, claimed that the Government was in breach of the convention by unilaterally suspending the pay agreement of 530,000 white collar staff and by denying the unions access to pay research evidence.

Denial by the Government of union access to arbitration for the 1981 pay settlement was also cited by the TUC, which said yesterday that its complaint of breaches of the convention had been upheld.

Mr Len Murray, the TUC general secretary, said: "The ILO's verdict is an authoritative vindication of the British trade union movement and a damning criticism of the British Government reneging on its commitments. In this, as in so many other respects, the Government has grievously damaged expectations and our country's international reputation."

Mr William Kendall, secretary general of the Council of Civil Service Unions, said last night: "The Government deliberately provoked and prolonged a serious pay dispute by its arbitrary suspension of agreed negotiating arrangements. It has now been condemned for ignoring international commitments in clear contravention of ILO instruments to which it is a signatory."

"The moral advantage in the 1981 dispute was always with the unions, and union industrial action was, in the circumstances, entirely appropriate and justified. The Government must now honour its promise to seriously negotiate 1982 pay, permit arbitration and should accept any arbitration award", Mr Kendall said.

He added that unions would be using the ILO verdict in arguments in the approaching pay negotiations and would be including it in the unions' submissions to the Megaw inquiry, which is examining Civil Service pay bargaining and is due to make recommendations for new pay system next year.

The ILO is regarded by unions as the world labour affairs court, and the convention referred to lays down the rights of public servants to organize and the procedures for determining conditions in the public services. The TUC complaint, which was supported by the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions and the Public Services International, said that articles seven and eight of the convention had been breached.

New quango for historic monuments questioned

By Hugh Clayton

Discreet opposition to the Government's plans for a new quango to administer ancient sites such as Stonehenge and Old Sarum came yesterday from the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England), one of the oldest state agencies in the heritage field.

It expressed polite scepticism about proposals issued last week by Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, for the creation of a new agency designed to make historic sites more self-supporting through appeals for private capital and the aggressive marketing of souvenirs.

"Commissioners could not see a self-evident advantage in handing over the stewardship of the national monumental heritage to a new non-departmental body", the royal commission said. Its chairman is Sir Michael Adeane, a former private secretary to the Queen, and half of its 14 other members are professors.

"Commissioners would also suggest that more thought needs to be given to the division of responsibilities inside and without the proposed new agency," the commission went on. "They are not as yet convinced that this commission, or a new body subsuming the commission's present functions, should be responsible for the very different problems of site management and commercial activity."

Last week ministers left open a decision about the fate of the commission.

The royal commission suggested tentatively yesterday that far from being taken over by a new quango it might from the centre piece of the new body.

POLICE RESCUE MAN ON LEDGE

Mr Robert Thornton, aged 26 a psychiatric patient, was rescued yesterday after spending nearly 14 hours on a three-inch ledge outside the fifteenth floor of a block of flats in Winchester Court, Sherwood, Nottingham. He was finally grabbed by the legs by two policemen and returned to Mapperley psychiatric hospital, in Nottingham.

Police said he burst into the flat of an elderly couple at 11 pm on Sunday night and went through a window to a balcony and the ledge. He was said to be suffering from depression.

ANOTHER JAIL CHIEF SPEAKS OUT

The governor of Strangeways prison, in Manchester, yesterday condemned Britain's jails as "an affront to a civilized society". In a letter published in *The Daily Telegraph* Mr Norman Brown called for legislation to reduce prison populations and restore the morale of staff.

Ten days ago, in a letter to *The Times*, Mr John McCarthy, the governor of Wormwood Scrubs, described himself as "the manager of a large penal dustbin".

Mr Brown claimed that Strangeways is one of the most overcrowded prisons in the country. "We just cannot go on locking men and women up for 23 hours a day. Why do the warnings continually given by the prison service go ignored?" he asked.

He agrees with a recent statement by Lord Longford that judges are holding back on reforms.

□ The Conference of Chief Probation Officers said in a statement yesterday that the prison crisis could be cured without new legislation if courts continued to turn to probation orders and community service rather than prison sentences.

Mr Gerald Bevis, the conference chairman and chief probation officer of Cheshire, said courts "could make a massive, immediate and lasting reduction in the prison population".

Leading article, page 11

Duke's aircraft 'in near miss' report

An Andover aircraft of the Queen's Flight, on which the Duke of Edinburgh is thought to have been travelling, was involved in a "near miss" on Friday with a Boeing 747 jumbo jet carrying 200 passengers and bound for Miami from Heathrow.

The pilot of the Boeing reported the incident, which British Airways say occurred at 3,000 ft over Midhurst, West Sussex. Buckingham Palace could not confirm whether the Duke was involved, though he had been flying in the area that day.

Rebel suspended

Mr Tony O'Brien, a member of the General and Municipal Workers' Union executive, has been suspended for six months because he supported Mr Wedgwood Benn in the contest for the deputy leadership of the Labour Party. The union backed Mr Denis Healey.

EEC agriculture budget How our upland farmers make the CAP fit

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

Last week's inconclusive European Council summit in Luxembourg has reinforced the prevailing view in Britain that community mechanisms are weighted against British interests.

Observers will have noted the flat refusal of France, Ireland and, to a lesser degree, Italy and Denmark to countenance any lessening of the amount that agriculture takes from the EEC Budget. Once again, it will be said, Britain and Germany are repaying through the nose to support the peasant farmers of Europe.

There are a few small ways in which the common agricultural policy does benefit Britain. Set against the outgoings, they are insignificant and they scarcely reach the consumer; but they may be seen as some small compensation.

One example is the designation of what are termed, in typically European jargon, "less favoured areas". These are areas where, for various reasons, farming faces particular difficulties and where farmers qualify for special help from the EEC.

The idea came from Britain which, at the time of its accession to the Community in 1973, was concerned about its upland farms. According to the Ministry of Agriculture, the United Kingdom has been the largest beneficiary of EEC contributions to investment aids and livestock allowances.

More than 7,500,000 hectares, 42.4 per cent of the total land area, is designated as less favoured. Easily the largest part is in Scotland, where the 5,200,000 hectares so designated amount to 67.5 per cent of the land area and 84 per cent of all agricultural land.

In Wales 54.1 per cent of the land area is classified as less favoured and in Northern Ireland 40.5 per cent.

Killer mother beat child

From Our Correspondent, Bristol

A killer mother who battered a child after winning her custody was put on probation for three years yesterday. The woman, who admitted cruelty and causing bodily harm, was sent to Broadmoor in 1968 for manslaughter of her baby aged six months.

The baby she bore in Broadmoor was taken away after 10 days and they next met when she sought custody last year.

Judge Peter Fallon said at Bristol Crown Court today that at the final hearing in December last year custody had been granted despite a social worker's fears. icy water.

An out-of-date medical report was presented and the mother's daughter aged 15, lived with her happily it was stated.

Less than two weeks after the girl left the care of Calderdale Social Services to live with her mother in Weston-super-Mare a social worker, Mr John Foster, was called in by the mother. He found injuries to the girl but accepted that they were self-inflicted.

An earlier hearing had heard that the girl was beaten, punched, branded with an iron and doused in icy water.

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## NEWS IN SUMMARY



Mr Green: Denied assault on pupils

## Head used cue to hit deaf pupils

The former head of a boarding school for deaf boys injured several pupils when he struck out with his hands and a billiard cue in an attempt to quell a riot, a court was told yesterday.

Paul Green, who was dismissed after incidents at Burwood Park school, at Walton-on-Thames, Surrey, was bound over at Kingston Crown Court in the sum of £50 to keep the peace for a year after denying 14 charges of assault.

Mr Nicholas Valios, for the prosecution, said that a considerable disturbance had begun one Saturday at tea-time. About 35 boys were told to go to the school library, where they barricaded themselves in.

Mr Green got in through a window, and he hit out with his hands, causing a number of boys minor injuries.

Later some boys again barricaded themselves in the library and Mr Green, again forced his way in.

He struck out with a billiard cue at the boys, inflicting injuries on some of them, Mr Valios said.

## Cannabis raid on singer's flat

Marianne Faithfull, the singer, was fined £100 and her husband, Ian Brierley £75 yesterday after both had admitted possessing cannabis resin. Miss Faithfull was ordered to pay £50 costs and Mr Brierley £1,343 costs.

At Snaresbrook Crown Court, London, Mr Kevin DeHaan, for the prosecution, said the couple's basement flat in Danvers Street, Chelsea, was raided after a policeman saw through a window two people rolling cigarettes.

## Times' men on fraud charge

Two employees of Times Newspapers were remanded in custody for three days at Clerkenwell Magistrates' court, London, yesterday on charges of falsifying accounts.

Steven O'Neill, aged 24, of Harlow, Essex, and Martin Wilson, aged 22, of Dartford, Kent, who both work in the accounts department, each face four charges of falsifying accounts.

Det. Constable Raymond Hayward told Mr J. Denis Purcell, the magistrate, that the case was a complex fraud involving seven people. He added that four other people had been arrested early yesterday.

## Emma the guide dog dies

Emma, the famous Labrador guide dog, has died at the age of 17. When her mistress, Mrs Sheila Hocken, of Stapleford, Nottinghamshire, regained her sight in an operation two years ago the dog went blind and the roles were reversed.

## Labour sets out case for church school shake-up

By Diana Gidley, Education Correspondent

Proposals to deprive voluntary-aided (predominantly church) schools of all powers over curriculum, staff appointments and pupil admissions are put forward in a discussion document drawn up by the Socialist Educational Association (SEA) which is affiliated to the Labour Party.

The proposals could lead to the abolition of church schools. At a press conference to launch the report in London yesterday Mrs Caroline Benn, president of the association and wife of Mr Wedgwood Benn, said the education subcommittee of the Labour Party's National Executive Committee would consider the document in the new year with a view to incorporating it into party policy.

Out of more than 8,000 denominational schools, two thirds are run by the Church of England, and others by the Roman Catholics, Methodists and Jews. The document, which is the result of 18 months' deliberations by a working party chaired by Mrs Benn and consisting mainly of teachers from both maintained county schools and voluntary-aided denominational schools, insists that its aim is to abolish voluntary schools but to "explore ways in which democratic accountability and control can be established".

At present the special legal status of voluntary-aided schools enables them to delay and even to resist local authority plans to reorganise them along comprehensive lines, it says.

Once they had become comprehensive, they were still able to operate a form of hidden selection in their intake through their power to select pupils without reference to the local authority.

Also, their right to decide the size of their intake sometimes made it difficult for authorities to rationalise schools on an equitable basis as the number of secondary pupils in the authority fell.

About a third of state schools have voluntary status of those, two fifths are "controlled", meaning that the local authority appoints a majority of governors and thereby effectively controls the school, while three fifths are "aided" schools, where the voluntary foundation or church appoints a majority of governors.

A "majority view" in the discussion document suggests that despite their past achievements any claim for special treatment, other than freedom to teach a particular religion, could no longer be accepted.

Voluntary schools should be treated in the same way as county schools, it said, with the same criteria on the curriculum, except for religious education; the same procedures for admissions and school size; the same staffing policy, and without freedom to appoint a majority of governors.

## Test to destruction for nuclear safety margins

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

One of the most remarkable operations ever planned to search for cracks and to make repairs to pipework in nuclear power stations is in progress.

It includes subjecting big components made of one-and-a-half-inch thick steel, and worth £500,000 each, to increasing stress until they explode. The first tests to destroy deliberately one of these objects was done at the Ministry of Defence range at Foulness, and a second will be tested similarly in a few weeks' time.

But those trials are just part of a long research and development programme by the Central Electricity Generating Board, for which the cost is put conservatively at more than £30m.

It was described by Dr. Bryan Edmondson, director of the board's engineering support group, as probably the largest engineering effort in history for testing and maintenance.

When a technical account of the investigation is published, it will provide an important contribution to the science of failure engineering standards. Yet there is a paradox associated with the project.

Although the work is being done to resolve a specific problem that has arisen in four Magnox power stations built in Britain almost 20 years ago, the main benefit will be in evaluating future power station designs like the American type of pressurised water reactor, PWR, which the board wants to build.

Dr Edmondson said one purpose of testing to destruction, components taken from the Magnox nuclear power station is to demonstrate safety margins in practice as well as from the theoretical computer calculations. The principles involved apply even more so to PWR's, he added.

The investigation was started 18 months ago when new ultrasonic crack detection methods were introduced into routine inspection. This showed flaws in the "bellows" unit which is used in as many as 150 places in the gas cooling circuits of each of the four stations.

The generating board's engineers are convinced that the flaws, found in welds which hold together steel supports within the bellows units, have been there since the plants came into operation almost 20 years ago.

The stations at Berkeley, in Gloucestershire, and Bradwell, Essex, which both came into operation in November 1962, supply 276 megawatts (MW) and 300 MW of electricity respectively.

The Dungeness A station, in Kent provides 410 MW and at Sizewell, in Suffolk, where only one of two reactors is out of service, the supply is 420 MW.

The two larger stations came into operation in 1966, but all have been operating at 15 per cent below their original design capacities.

That was done to cut the rate of corrosion of steel bolts. Coping with the defects in the welds of bellows units is far more complicated because many of them are in inaccessible parts.

Operating conditions vary from station to station. At Dungeness the gas temperature is 300 degrees centigrade and the pressure 268 lbs a square inch.

In the test to destruction, a bellows from Dungeness was pressurised to over 1,313 lbs a square inch.

On the basis of elaborate studies of the performance of bellows at each station, the generating board is submitting separate safety analyses to the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate with a view to bringing the plant back into operation. That has been agreed for one of the reactors at Dungeness A station to be used from this week.

## Target '82 drafts strategy for left-wing GLC members

By David Walker

Since Labour took over the Greater London Council in May, a committee of left-wingers has met at County Hall in rooms booked by members of Mr Kenneth Livingstone's collective leadership.

Called Target '82, the committee is dedicated to the success in next May's borough council elections of candidates who "are prepared to confront the Government" and to policies of full-blooded municipal socialism.

This month target '82's past efforts — interminable meetings, detailed working-party reports, the building of a system of political communication — will ensure that its policies form the core of electoral conferences in several inner and outer London boroughs. Both Southwark and Lewisham's election manifestos already have Target '82's stamp.

Target '82's policies generally have no cost attached. They are extensive municipalisation, no increases in council house rents, more vigorous use of planning powers, more and wider social services and job-creation projects.

All are underpinned by the right — accountability — of Labour councillors to the inter-constituency "local government committee", which, in several boroughs, Target '82 has made its own.

Target '82's guiding light is Mr Jeremy Corbyn, its convener, a full-time official of the National Union of Public Employees. Mr Corbyn and colleagues from his political base, Haringey, are among the editors of the London left's house journal, the monthly *London Labour Briefing*. It is *Briefing* that carries the list of targeted sitting Labour councillors, and prints the model resolutions which have become policy in the half dozen boroughs, where the Bennite left controls Labour Party affairs.

With 2,000 to 2,500 copies printed, *Briefing's* circulation is narrow, but the *Labour* and *Militant* it fulfils the function of organising a party within the party. *Briefing's* strength charts the strength of the left wing: it circulates in Haringey, Brent, Haringey, Southwark, Lambeth and to a lesser extent in Camden, Hounslow, Lewisham and Greenwich.

The *Briefing* group, its membership of 50-100 equal with that of Target '82, includes several NUPES officials — Mr Mark Sainsbury, a union area officer, fulfils Mr Corbyn's organising role south of the River Thames. Most members are employed by local councils. Several, such as Miss Valerie Wise, are members of GLC.

The group's first triumph was the capture of the GLC for the left under Mr Livingstone, although Mr Livingstone and his associate, Mr Ted Knight, leader of Lambeth Council, have since been criticized in *Briefing's* columns for deviations.

Even before May this year, plans had been hatched for an organization — Target '82 — to coordinate strategy for the borough elections of next year. Targets were listed in

*Briefing* as moderate and right-of-centre leaders. Mr John O'Grady, leader of Southwark council, has fallen victim, and been denied re-election as a Labour councillor. Mr Andrew Hawkins, leader of Lewisham, faces a difficult passage; the position of Mr Roy Shaw, leader of Camden, is tricky.

Target '82 has been resisted, most successfully in Tower Hamlets, where Labour councillors have safeguarded their re-election. Mr Paul Beasley, council leader, called Target '82 "a very divisive influence".

But to Mr Brynley Davies, leader of the Inner London Education Authority and an associate of Target '82, it is merely "a mutual support group to talk through ideas".

*Briefing*, he said, "is a forum for those on the left to encourage all groups on the left to get involved in local government; but I never saw it as a grouping like 'Militant'".

Apart from securing the adoption of left-wing council candidates in Southwark, Target '82's big success to date has been in the writing of manifestos for borough elections. Thanks to a compliant executive committee, the official Greater London regional council of the Labour Party is to act as a "co-ordinator" for borough policy promises — a new role, desired by the left as a way of imposing uniformity.

According to a resolution in the October edition of *Briefing*, the regional council is to "crystallise" a special conference immediately after the May elections to organize a strategy of "no cuts".

Meanwhile Target '82's sample manifesto promises to "urge increased spending in virtually every department of London councils, the employment of extra staff, setting up of municipal centres for unemployed workers".

Objections to that plan by the central government is to be met by "disengagement" of Labour councillors and strikes. *Briefing* supporters are to advance this view at the special London Labour Party conference that is planned for December 12.

## Better deal promised by race officer

By Lucy Hodges

The first race relations adviser to the Greater London Council began work yesterday, five days after publication of Lord Scarman's report on the Brixton riots, and said he would be reviewing the council's policies and practices to give a better deal to London's one million blacks.

Mr Herman Ouseley, aged 34, who was born in Guyana and has worked in Brixton for the past eight years as principal race relations officer with the Lambeth Council, will be introducing a system of ethnic monitoring throughout the authority and drawing up a code of conduct to ensure that the GLC is an effective "equal opportunity employer".

Announcing his appointment yesterday at a salary of £22,000, Mr Paul Boateng, vice-chairman of the GLC's new ethnic minorities committee, said the new policy did not amount to positive discrimination. He preferred the term "positive action".

"We are not talking about more jobs for blacks and more homes for blacks, because that is too crude," Mr Boateng said. "What it is about is recognizing the special needs of the black community, which means allocating resources over and above what we are giving to the inner city."

Rejecting Lord Scarman's phrase, "positive discrimination", as "a surprisingly ineffectual one for him to use", Mr Boateng nevertheless agreed with him that there had to be positive effort to combat racial disadvantage and discrimination.

To that end the council, which employs 22,000 people and is the largest local authority in the country, would be considering introducing targets for, say, training black people for jobs and housing them. But that did not mean quotas, because they were unlawful under the Race Relations Act.

Given that Sir Winston, who succeeded Mr Ailes in 1951, finally introduced the system at the height of the cold war, with Burgess and Maclean, then Mr Clement Attlee, who had doubts about the practice on civil liberties grounds, was informed by the Secretary of the Cabinet that no more than 1,000 posts would require their occupants to be screened.

Today's total of more than 25,000 posts covered by the vetting net does seem excessive.

In the present climate of cost-consciousness in Whitehall, elaborate field inquiries by the Ministry of Defence's 130 investigating officers that vetted civil servants for home departments (the Armed Forces, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, MI5 and the Secret Intelligence Service, MI6, look

## Quieter days for mole hunters

By Peter Hennessy

Thirty years ago next month Sir Winston Churchill ordered that the past and present private lives of civil servants engaged in highly sensitive defence, intelligence and diplomatic activities should be thoroughly investigated to ensure they were not moonlighting for the Soviet Government in addition to drawing a salary from his Majesty's Paymaster General.

In the next week or two, Mrs Margaret Thatcher will receive a report prepared by the Security Commission urging in the strongest terms that she keeps the system of positive vetting introduced by Sir Winston.

Sir Winston set up a vital first line of defence against the KGB, which continues to devote much effort to infiltrating the British Civil Service.

The for-hunting Lord Diplock and his fellow security commissioners will not, however, be urging the hounds of the Security Service, MI5, to be let loose on another, wide-ranging "mole" hunt in Whitehall. If anything the reverse will be true.

In evidence presented to them since their invitation in March, in the wake of the Hollis affair, to examine the condition of the public service's defences against penetration by foreign intelligence organisations, the security commissioners have heard from many of the senior men responsible for the safety of the realm that the number of civil servants being positively vetted has got out of hand and should be reduced.

When the idea of positive vetting was first considered in 1950, under pressure from the Americans after the conviction of Dr Klaus Fuchs, the most damaging of the atom spies, the Prime Minister, then Mr Clement Attlee, who had doubts about the practice on civil liberties grounds, was informed by the Secretary of the Cabinet that no more than 1,000 posts would require their occupants to be screened.

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## Whitehall brief

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## Case sign of rate revolt, QC claims

By Frances Gibb

The challenge by the London Borough of Bromley to the extra rates levied by the Greater London Council to pay for the fares cut of a quarter by London Transport is part of a widespread revolt by ratepayers, Mr David Widdicombe, QC, told the Lords yesterday.

He said that the Labour controlled GLC's policy was, in Bromley's opinion, "a deliberate policy of loss-making at the expense of the ratepayers".

Bromley's case, among other points, is that under the Transport Act, 1969, the GLC has to run London Transport as a business venture; that the fares cut was not in accordance with business principles; and that in law the council has a duty to its ratepayers, which it had breached.

The policy was being contested not only by Bromley but also by ratepayers throughout the country, Mr Widdicombe said.

Mr Widdicombe, for Bromley Council, was opening his submissions before the Lords. Lord Wilberforce presiding. The GLC is contesting a recent Court of Appeal ruling which upheld a claim by Bromley that the GLC had acted illegally in levying a 6.1p rate to subsidise its fares cut.

Of the effect of the GLC's transport policy, Mr Widdicombe said that the owner of a property with a rateable value of £500 would have paid £7.20 for transport in 1981-82 under the previous Conservative administration. Under the new administration, he would pay £40.50 and, if those transport policies were carried through to 1982-83, this would rise to £47.70.

The hearing continues.

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## Benefit reform 'has led to confusion'

By Pat Healy, Social Services Correspondent

The promised simplification of the supplementary benefits scheme has resulted in widespread confusion and hardship for claimants, the Social Security Advisory Committee has been told.

A year after the reforms, which ministers said would give claimants clearly understood rights, officials remain ignorant of the new rules and the public is totally baffled.

The administration of the new scheme is as confusing as the old one, according to the committee, which has published evidence today by the Child Poverty Action Group, which was paid by the Department of Health and Social Security to help to monitor the scheme for a year.

Similar points are made in an unpublished submission from the National Council for One Parent Families.

The experience of the two agencies and others taking part in the monitoring exercise is that supplementary benefit officers "seem to know nothing of the new regulations and, on occasions, care less", according to the action group's evidence.

It may well be that the elimination of discretion has eased the departmental decision-making process. We are not convinced that it has been of much benefit to claimants.

Both organizations say that benefit officers make decisions on the basis of internal instructions, or a handbook, instead of from the published regulations designed to define claimants' legal rights. The results are leading to delays, confusion about entitlement and often rudeness to claimants.

In one of 250 cases taken up by the one parent family council between December, 1980, and August, 1981, it took nearly two months for a schoolgirl mother to be awarded benefit to which she was clearly entitled.

Rising unemployment is swelling the numbers of single homeless people, according to the Crisis, a Christmas organization. More school-leavers are seeking work in the main cities but finding themselves homeless and alone there.

## AWARD FOR BRAVERY 39 YEARS LATE

From Our Correspondent York

Mr Frank Adamson, a former sergeant, was presented with the Croix de Guerre he won 39 years ago for bravery in the Western Desert.

The retired postman, aged 73, had been awarded the medal by the French Government after taking part in a delaying action against 12 German Panzer tanks who were pursuing a Free French column. In an attempt to give the French column time to escape Mr Adamson and his comrades positioned themselves in front of the tanks and kept on firing until they were overrun.

Mr Adamson was awarded the medal by the French while he was still a prisoner but over the years his award was lost under red tape.

But yesterday, thanks to the persistence of his war-time battery commander, Major Roger Coxton, who got the medal issued and traced the survivors, Mr Adamson was guest of honour at a ceremony at barracks, Topcliffe, North Yorkshire, to receive the medal he never knew he had won.

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Mr Adamson was awarded



*Hurry up, Harriet.  
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## American role in Damascus blast implied by Syria

From Robert Fisk, Beirut, Nov 30

Syria today as good as accused the United States of having a hand in the huge car bomb explosion yesterday that killed more than 60 people and seriously wounded more than 100 in the centre of Damascus.

The government-controlled newspaper *Tishrin* said this morning that it did "not dismiss the possibility that what happened was the work of a foreign hand, the framework of the preparatory steps for the return of Habbib".

The reference to Mr Philip Habib, President Reagan's special Middle East envoy who arrived back in Beirut within hours of the explosion, reflects Syria's growing disquiet about American attempts to bring peace to the area. It also shows the depth of antagonism felt in Damascus towards the American Government's determination to continue with the Camp David peace accords now that President Sadat is dead.

The Syrian news agency Sana has already accused the "imperialist-donkey" of being behind the explosion, but today's *Tishrin* article is the most outspoken attack yet on the Americans.

On television last night, the Syrians showed grim pictures of those injured by the car bomb. The cameras dwelt at length on the gashy facial wounds of those men and women caught by the blast in Abukhalil Street, and a news programme later showed film of bodies stacked in the city's mortuary.

This unheard-of publicity almost certainly presages a new wave of repression by Syrian special forces units on those areas of the country in which the Muslim Brotherhood — directly accused of the crime by the Government — are believed to have their main support.

In Beirut this afternoon, opposing militias greeted Mr Habib's initial meeting with Lebanese government leaders with their traditional bombardment of the city's ruined front line.

By nightfall, one block of flats was on fire in the Christian suburb of Jassouie

## Israel to arm Palestinian moderates

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv, Nov 30

Palestinian Arab moderates whose lives and families have been threatened by terrorists will be armed for self defence, it was learnt here today.

Defence Ministry officials have decided to accede to a request by leaders of the Village Leagues, a social and economic movement of rural Arabs advocating peace and coexistence with Israel, made at the funeral of one of their leaders, Yusuf al-Khatib, who was murdered together with his son in a terrorist ambush.

A Defence Ministry spokesman said the traditional Israeli policy had been to provide protection from time to time for Arabs accused by terrorists of collaboration with Israel but it is now proposed to arm the Arabs themselves.

The source said gun licences will be issued to individuals and it is not intended to arm militias.

However, West Bank Arabs were dubious and privately expressed fears that Israelis were arming the moderates for a blood feud with the PLO.



A new kind of relationship

## Belgian crisis deepens

From Peter Norman, Brussels, Nov 30

Belgium was today plunged into deeper political crisis as Mr Willy De Clercq, the Flemish Liberal leader, abandoned his attempt to form a government.

He was discharged by King Baudouin from the position of prime minister after the French-speaking Social Christians refused to join his planned coalition of French and Flemish-speaking Liberal and Christian parties.

He was asked to try to form a government six days ago and tabled a five-point programme for reviving the economy and making government more efficient.

The Social Christians appear to have rejected Mr De Clercq's invitation to join a government out of fear that they would lose electoral support in the depressed southern half of Belgium to the French-speaking Socialists.

Mr De Clercq campaigned on a platform of promoting free enterprise.

His party and the French-speaking Liberals, headed by M Jean Gol, made the biggest gains in the inconclusive general election of November 8, which saw a polarization of electoral support to the right-wing Liberals and the Socialist Party.

Although the de Clercq programme was couched in uncontroversial language, the left-wing newspaper *Le Peuple* today claimed that it would have virtually demolished the Belgian system of pay indexation, slashed family allowances and done untold harm to the Walloon steel and aircraft construction industries.

Mr De Clercq said his measures would hurt, but were fair. Belgium has the highest rate of unemployment and has the largest burden of state debt per head of population of any EEC country.

## Emergency fears in Poland

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw, Nov 30

Poland's Communist leadership is girding itself for labour unrest during the coming winter months. This emerged today from previously undisclosed details of a draft Emergency Powers Bill being considered by the Polish Parliament.

General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the party leader and Prime Minister, has already threatened a temporary ban on strikes during an address to a meeting of the Central Committee at the weekend. But the scope of the measures being considered seems to go far beyond a straightforward suspension of the right to strike.

According to party sources, confirmed in substance by the official Interpress news agency, the bill would empower the government to impose a ban on mass meetings apart from religious ceremonies and curbs on the freedom of movement. It also allows for the transfer of certain judicial cases from civil to military courts.

Evidently the leadership

would not invoke this special "essential powers for government" Act unless it felt that other legislation, notably that concerning "trade" unions, either remained unratified or was proving ineffective.

A trade union Bill is still before the Sejm which makes provision, amongst other things, for pre-strike mediation procedures and imposes an obligation to announce strike intentions seven days in advance. The Bill also bans all forms of poverty political strikes.

This measure, aimed at ending wildcat strikes, heavily qualifies workers' rights to strike in the view of some experts in *Solidarity*, the independent trade union.

The new emergency powers package would give the Government important powers to "control" labour unrest get out of hand during the winter. Sejm deputies said today that they expected the draft Bill to go before a parliamentary committee for further consideration later this week.

The Central Committee

meeting at the weekend also appears to have watered down the party's concept of a Front of National Understanding. This front was devised as the Government's response to demands for a national coalition alliance, giving a wider institutional framework to *Solidarity*. The union, however, is wary of the front and believes it may be lured into an alliance that would in effect neuter it.

Now the Central Committee appears to be talking of a possible Council of National Understanding in place of a front. This, Western diplomatic analysts say, suggests that *Solidarity* could be confined to participation in a mere advisory "talking shop", if the party leadership has its way.

The Polish Government dissolved a strike-bound firemen's training academy today as part of what appeared to be a new get-tough policy (Reuter reports from Warsaw). Some 380 cadets firemen had ignored repeated calls to leave their college.

## SPAIN NOW READY TO JOIN NATO

From Frederick Bonnar, Brussels, Nov 30

The Spanish Ambassador to Belgium, Señor Numa Aguirre de Carcer, is about to deliver a letter from his Government to the Secretary General of Nato, in which Spain will indicate its readiness to join the alliance.

This is the first step in the cumbersome entry procedure. The letter will be examined by the full North Atlantic Council of 15 members, who will then sign the formal protocol of accession, probably in mid-December.

The protocol will then be sent to each capital for ratification.

## Warsaw Pact discuss Romanian peace protest

From Dena Trevisan, Bucharest, Nov 30

Foreign ministers of the Warsaw Pact are gathering here to begin talks tomorrow, which Romanian officials describe as routine. So far there has been no announcement, but the meeting, according to official sources, is expected to last two days.

The agenda is not known, but is clearly to be concerned with current European problems and the peace campaign which Romania recently intensified, calling for nuclear disarmament in Europe and appealing to the United States and Soviet Union to do everything to achieve this.

Poland and the economic difficulties that face many Soviet block countries will be discussed. Romania has been raising criticism lately of the lack of response by Communist Party leaders to President Ceausescu's initiative for a summit to discuss economic problems.

He recently disclosed that Romania's partners in the Comecon economic grouping

rejected his proposal for a summit this year because all the Communist parties had "many more important preoccupations and can therefore not arrange such a meeting this year."

The Pact meeting will be held at the height of the Romanian peace campaign. Marches, for which hundreds of thousands of people turned out, have been going on for several weeks. At the five-year anniversary of the march in Bucharest in which several hundred thousand people are expected to participate.

President Ceausescu has been calling for an end to the deployment and production of new missiles in Europe and for the withdrawal of all existing ones. Although he is out of step with other Warsaw Pact countries, his campaign is not contrary to the Soviet stance, despite the fact that his call for the withdrawal of all existing missiles in Europe is addressed to Moscow.

## NEWS IN SUMMARY

### Seychelles threat to aircraft

Victoria, Seychelles — The Seychelles Government warned diplomatic missions here that it will shoot down unidentified aircraft violating the islands' airspace following the abortive coup by a band of foreign mercenaries.

The Seychelles People's Defence Forces announced that the islands' airspace had been violated by a suspected aircraft circling at high altitude over the main island of Mahe.

The airport at Pointe Larue, south-east of the capital on Mahe's north-east coast, has been closed to commercial traffic since the mercenary attack, and there was still no indication when it would be reopened.

### 100 injured in Assam protest

Delhi — A 12-hour road blockade throttled traffic throughout the north-east Indian state of Assam and left about 100 people injured, 1,000 arrested and two towns under indefinite curfew, the United News of India said.

The blockade was part of continuing agitation by the West Assam Students Union and the All Assam Gana Sangram Parishad, a non-student organization, in their two-year battle against the influx of immigrants.

Police clashed with demonstrators in Sheldah, Nowgong, about 55 miles east of Guwahati, the capital, and at Becheria near Darrang, about 120 miles north-east of the capital, the agency said. Police fired on both crowds and one person was seriously wounded in each village. Both villages were placed under curfew.

### Divers search for lost child

Paderborn, West Germany — The British Army called in divers to search a flooded river near where a two-year-old British girl disappeared on Saturday, an *Associated Press* report said.

Katrice Lee was missing on her second birthday while shopping with her parents at Schloss Neuhaus, outside Paderborn. Army helicopters and tractors helped hundreds of soldiers and volunteers comb nearby countryside over the weekend, but no trace of her was found.

### Drive to stop child smuggling

Hongkong — Security has been increased along Hongkong's border with China to halt a new flow of illegal immigrants, mostly children under 12, police said.

A close watch was being kept on the movement of Chinese border traders, many of whom were believed to be involved in the smuggling of children into the colony, a police statement said.

Sixty-nine children had been brought into Hongkong illegally in the past month, and a further 1,148 had applied to the Immigration Department for formal registration between October 1 and November 19.

### Teacher accused of kidnapping

Seoul — A South Korean teacher was arrested on charges of kidnapping one of his students, a 14-year-old girl, after kidnapping him for ransom, police said.

The teacher, who was charged with kidnapping for ransom, was held on suspicion of complicity.

## Man in the News

### Ruler of a hostile West Bank

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem, Nov 30

Few academics have had the opportunity of putting their theories into practice in such a hostile environment as Menachem Milson, an Israeli professor of Arabic literature, who took over on November 1 as head of the projected civilian administration which will handle all but security matters in the occupied West Bank.

In the ensuing weeks scarcely a day has passed without his appointment being used as the pretext for demonstrations by Palestinians convinced he is the precursor of a limited autonomy which will perpetuate Israeli conquest.

Tyres have been burnt, stones thrown, nationalist slogans chanted and attacks made on him in those editorials in Jerusalem's Arabic press which have passed the military censor. Israel's response has been to launch reprisals as harsh as any experienced since the West Bank was conquered in 1967.

It has all been very different from the brief period in November, 1977, when Professor Milson (author of one of the scholarly works — *A Sufi Rule for Nocturnes*) was appointed to act as the official aide-de-camp to President Sadat during his historic visit to Jerusalem.

The fact that the professor, with a reputation for a razor-sharp intellect, has found himself identified with tough security measures has surprised some of his friends in the opposition Labour Party. They had always assumed that his attitude towards an eventual solution of the West Bank problem was similar to their own "Jordanian option".

Although not committed politically to one party, Professor Milson worked as an official adviser during the recent election campaign to

discovered that their sensible views did not earn them preferential treatment from the Israeli authorities.

He attributed the PLO's political control over the area to a combination of financial patronage and intimidation, citing examples of a number of moderate West Bank and Gaza personalities assassinated in recent years.

The article foreshadowed the increasing role now being given by Israel to the appointed leaders of the Village Leagues, groups of rural West Bankers prepared to coexist with the military government in exchange for economic benefits. It also called for the curbing of PLO funds to the municipalities, a policy recently implemented.

While acknowledging the professor's intellectual abilities, some Israeli observers have criticized him for failing to consider sufficiently the effect of hardline security policies in producing support for Palestinian nationalism among the 700,000 West Bankers.

There are also doubts in diplomatic circles as to whether the new "carrot and stick" policy can build up a moderate local leadership with even minimum popular support. Although the assassination of one Village League leader has failed to deter the other two, they are still branded as "Quislings" by Arab extremists in the occupied area.

Israeli Labour politicians also feel that excessive punishment in the form of new security measures will far outweigh any benefits from Professor Milson's appointment. As one West Bank housewife told Israel radio after her family home had been dynamited this month: "I have worked in Israel for 14 years, and now in five minutes they have destroyed my home and my connections with Israel."

## Sadat trial to be secret

From Our Correspondent, Cairo, Nov 30

Twenty-four Muslim zealots, charged with murder and conspiracy in the assassination of President Sadat, pleaded not guilty today at their trial before a supreme military court.

During the two-hour session, held in secret, the three-man panel scheduled the next session for Saturday and said it would be closed to the public and press. It refused defence requests for the testimony of President Mubarak, General Abdel Halim Abu Ghazala, the Defence Minister, Mr Ismail Fahmy, the former Foreign Minister.

The testimony of Mr Mubarak and General Abu Ghazala were requested by lawyers of the main defendant, First Lieutenant Khalid el-Islambouly, on the grounds that the two flanked President Sadat when he was shot dead during a military parade on October 6.

Mr Fahmy was in office when Mr Sadat launched his peace initiative and he resigned on November 11 because of his opposition to the move which, he said, would isolate Egypt from the rest of the Arab world.

Defence sources said they will try to turn the trial into a debate on the domestic and foreign policies of President Sadat alleging they motivated the defendants into carrying out the assassination.

"I am guilty of killing the unbeliever and I am proud of it," Lieutenant el-Islambouly shouted from the steel cage when the charges were read to him.

He said he was not guilty of killing the others who died during the assault.

## Burmese succession doubts grow Land of plenty scents the winds of change

From Trevor Fishlock, Rangoon, Nov 30



General Ne Win, Creator of modern Burma

In Rangoon's opulent Golden Pagoda, sloe-eyed Golden, bright as jays, arrived with long switches of their hair. In pious sacrifice and prayer they hung their prized tresses on a rack, with their names on a card, with the attention of Buddha.

Such rituals are commonplace in a land where religion is embedded in every aspect of life, and no hamlet or village is without its pagoda. Buddhism is Burma's keel and the key to a reclusive country which has deliberately kept itself isolated.

The tolerant and elastic nature of Buddhism, neither retributive nor combative, has helped to shape an essentially placid people of low volatility and enviable equanimity.

As well as being at the core of Burmese identity and history, Buddhism, practised by more than four-fifths of the people, provides much of the colour and rhythm of society. It stands in contrast with the dreariness of a regime in which authority rests with the Army and in particular with General Ne Win, their extraordinary leader for nearly 20 years.

Buddhism, full stomachs and the virtual absence of politics help to make the Burmese philosophical. The system of the parliamentary coup 20 years ago ended the political dimension. Dissent and free writing have been crushed. Censorship and informers help to keep order: there are no *sanitized* or graffiti.

When I suggested to a Burmese that Burma appeared wholeheartedly religious and halfheartedly Socialist, he said: "You are wrong — it is quarterhearted."

has replaced him in the Presidency. But General Ne Win remains chairman of the Burma Socialist Programme Party he formed after taking over in 1962, so he stays in control.

General San Yu is a figurehead — he could have no long-term political existence without General Ne Win. The recent changes have not provided an answer to the question, "After Ne Win, who?"

Few doubt that in the Army-party hierarchy there is now beginning to emerge a new generation of men, some of whom will emerge one strong man, or clique.

Of late, General Ne Win has been inspecting his conscience, releasing people from jails, and building a pagoda. Such acts are in keeping with a Buddhist's preparation for the next life. But his place in this world's history, as creator of modern Burma, is secure.

From the days of British rule he was determined that the Burmese should be masters in their own united land. He was one of the "Thirty Comrades" who fought with the invading Japanese in the belief that this was the way to independence. When disillusion set in, they changed sides.

After independence, when the country was torn by insurgency and Rangoon could not control the chaos, General Ne Win overthrew the government of U Nu and took power.

He has ruthlessly pursued the ideal of a united Burma, as exemplified by the stars on the country's flag, which represent the various people. In 19 years the Army has become one of the best and

insurgency forces and in a gruelling war has driven and government guerrillas to the limits.

General Ne Win jailed many innocent people because they might have posed a threat, but the firing squad was never part of his regime.

On a personal basis the Burmese are open and friendly with foreigners, although the country's policies have been characterized as xenophobic. He was brought up with a strongly anti-colonial grievance and was determined that in his "Burma for the Burmese" foreign influence would have no economic foothold.

He has made Burma neutral, not an easy task, and it seems unlikely that the policy of non-involvement will change much after his departure.

But other things might. The door is being eased open slightly to allow more foreign aid, which Burma needs help to develop its backward economy and its under-exploited resources.

The younger generation is likely to push for easier contacts with the rest of the world, for the sort of goods it can only get now through the black market and smugglers. Only a few Burmese are permitted to travel abroad, but people are surprisingly well informed about the outside world through the BBC, foreign films and the magazines and books that find their way to pavement vendors.

Economic necessity, as well as the growing awareness of the young, will produce pressure for change and at the same time confront the new leadership with dilemmas.

## Campaign for missing dissidents

By Denis Taylor

Amnesty International today launched a worldwide campaign to publicize the fate of many thousands of people in Third World countries who have "disappeared" because of their opposition, or suspected opposition, to governments.

The human rights organization, which wants to expose and halt the oppression, said that many of those concerned were probably dead. But the special mark of "disappearance" was that people remained unaccounted for, missing without trace, and that government officials claimed to have no knowledge of them, it said.

Families were left without even the solace of mourning, in permanent uncertainty. Amnesty mentioned Chile, Argentina, Guatemala, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Guinea, the Philippines and South Yemen among the nations where people have been abducted either by, or with the complicity of, government forces.

In addition to the mass killings that took place in Cambodia under the Khmer Rouge and in Uganda under the Government of Idi Amin, there were also many "disappearances".

Amnesty said that other countries where people had "disappeared" in recent years included Afghanistan and Indonesia (East Timor).

## Chinese told to expect solid economic progress

Peking, Nov 30 — Mr Zhao Ziyang, the Chinese Prime Minister, assured the opening session of China's annual parliament today that the Government's current brand of communism was laying a solid foundation for future progress.

In an economic report notable for its hard-headed tone and lack of ideological rhetoric, Mr Zhao said the retrenchment policies officially known as "readjustment" would take at least five years to complete.

He was addressing 3,202 deputies gathered in Peking's Great Hall of the People for the meeting of the National People's Congress, as the parliament is called.

China has curtailed or suspended foreign contracts worth \$1,500m (\$750m) under its readjustment programme, measures which have raised doubts about its reliability as a trading partner. But Mr Zhao emphasized that Peking would continue to encourage foreign trade and investment and import advanced technology.

He said China should discard the idea of total self-sufficiency, favoured during the years of leftist dominance under Mao Tse-tung, although it would be wrong to "blindly worship things abroad".

The Prime Minister drew applause when he announced that China should be able to fulfil its economic plan for this year. He also announced

that last year's budget deficit of 12,700m yuan (\$1,500m) would be drastically cut to 2,700m yuan.

Industrial production, which declined at the start of 1981, was rising again, he said, and the country's overall economic growth rate should reach its 3 per cent target by the end of the year. Still rising and increased savings deposits showed that people had confidence in China's economic prospects.

He listed economic principles which contained little new in terms of policy but in effect summarized the economic philosophy of the present leadership.

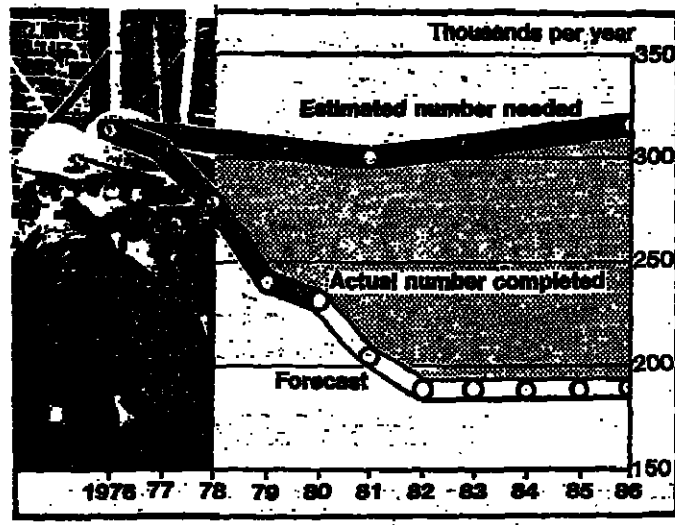
The first principle was to speed up growth in agriculture, which employs 800 million of China's 1,000 million population. The second was to emphasize the importance of consumer goods, which China needs to satisfy rising expectations and to absorb surplus money.

The Congress is expected to introduce a new tax law for foreign firms cautiously avoided by all companies.

Mr Deng Xiaoping, the Chinese leader, was supported by a nurse when he attended the Congress today, according to the *runo* news agency.

There Hongkong recently that Mr Deng, who is 77, was suffering from an undetermined illness. Today he spoke briefly and his voice was normal. — Reuter and AFP.





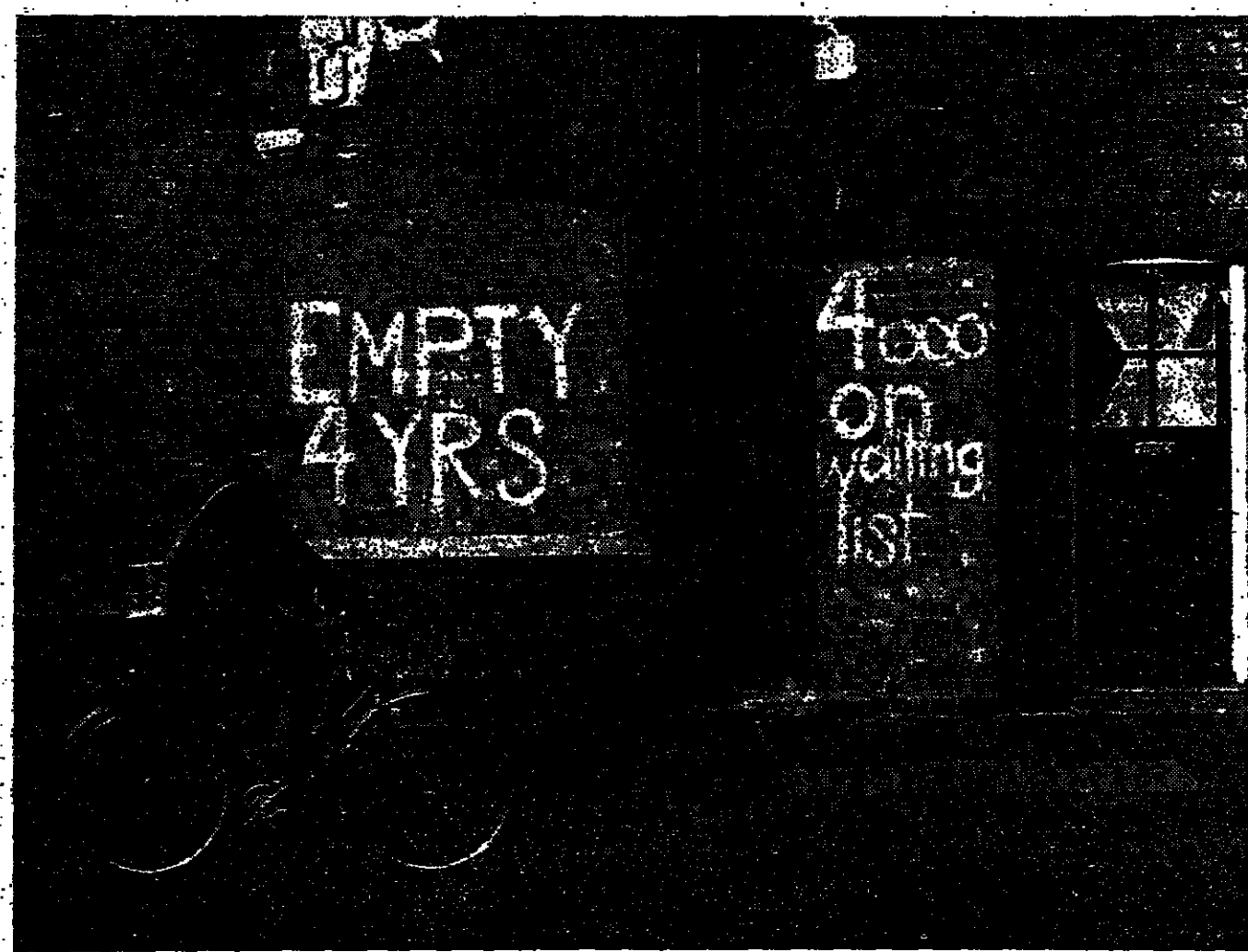
### The housing gap: demand increasing while building slumps

- Not enough houses are being built. There is a need for 300,000 houses to be completed this year. Only 205,000 are expected to be finished.
- Not enough houses are being started. In 1967, 400,000 houses were begun. This year, building begins on only 145,000 homes.
- Not enough council homes are being started.
- In 1967, 200,000 council homes were begun. This year, building begins on only 35,000 homes.
- 3,000,000 homes need serious repairs. 547,000 in England alone are unfit for habitation.
- The number of unemployed in the building industry has more than doubled in the last two years. In August 1979 the number of building industry jobless was 153,000. Now it is 370,000.
- 850,000 homes are overcrowded.
- There are 50,000 homeless in England alone.
- There is an imbalance in the amount of state subsidy given to different types of household. In 1981/82, council tenants will receive a subsidy of £241 per household. Private home-owners will receive £285 per household, through tax relief on mortgages. Private tenants, however, will receive only £21 per household.

## The homeless are here to stay

Last night, Shelter celebrated 15 years of campaigning for the homeless. In a lecture to mark the occasion, Des Wilson, the campaign's former director, argued that despite their work, housing in Britain is inadequate and in a poor state of repair — and things are getting worse.

My case today is that after a considerable advance in new building, rehabilitation, and legislation for housing in the late sixties, our housing programme has collapsed at such an alarming rate that we now face a major crisis, one likely to become without parallel in our lifetime. What it adds up to is this: that for all the advances made in the late sixties and early seventies, a vast number of families in Britain are inadequately housed. They are homeless in the sense that they are not living in conditions conducive to a decent family life: overcrowded, often with parents and children sharing the same bedroom; living in conditions officially unfit for human habitation; living with friends or relatives in a situation of strain and tension. In addition, they must face the fact that as the new building programme collapses and rehabilitation falls behind the rate of decline, the probability is that they have no hope whatsoever of escaping their dilemma. All the signs are that this year fewer houses will be started than at any time in the past 50 years. For two consecutive years — 1977 and 1978 — the number of starts exceeded 400,000. This year we will achieve less than half that — perhaps a decline of a quarter of a million houses a year since their peak performance. In the public sector, the number of house starts has fallen from close to 200,000 in 1967 and 1968 to nearer 35,000 this year; in other words, we are building one council house for every six



An empty house in Cardiff: three-quarters of all public expenditure cuts are in housing

England alone the overall figure has collapsed: from 48,643 in the first quarter of 1980 to 27,093 in the second quarter of 1981. New building and renovation together are substantially lower than new building alone in the late sixties. Reflecting all this, the construction industry is in its worst recession in recorded history. Unemployment in the industry has increased spectacularly from 153,000 in August 1979 to 370,000 in August 1981. Nearly one in eight of the unemployed in Britain are in the construction industry. Fewer than 20 per cent of the firms in the industry are now working at or near full capacity. The role of expenditure cuts in causing this calamity is clear: orders for all new work for the industry are now running at three quarters, by value, of their 1975 level, but orders for new public housing work has collapsed to one fifth of the 1975 level. With unemployment in the construction industry four times higher than it was in 1973, it can be seen that the housing cuts have also led to a substantial increase in unemployment.

### 1 The 'surplus' myth

How has it happened that our housing is so poor? First, the main factor in the failure of the calculation of need and the failure of the housing policy has been the creation and perpetuation of the myth of the housing surplus. It all began in the late sixties when statistics were produced to show that Britain was heading towards a so-called 'housing surplus' — an excess of units of accommodation over households. Ministers immediately acclaimed this as an achievement and foresaw the end of the housing problem. This belief has spread like a cancer into policy-making in housing, the official line being that if there was to be a crude housing surplus — (the word 'crude' was added as their conviction about the relevance of it began to falter even while their misuse of it continued) — 'crude housing surplus' then clearly the emphasis on new building could be reconsidered.



Dead housing in Southwark

## How the myth of the housing surplus has disguised the awful truth

The fact is, of course, that the surplus may have been of some minor statistical significance but it has always been completely and utterly irrelevant to the housing problem. What is the problem? It is the provision of houses in the right place (that is where people have to live to work), of the right quality (that is of a standard fit for human habitation), of the right size (that is where a family has a home of its own and is not overcrowded), at the right price (that is at a price that a family can afford without being driven deeper into debt or poverty), and that is secure (that is to say that they do not live in fear of eviction onto the streets). Let's take each in turn: Is it in the right place? The surplus is irrelevant if it's over the country as a whole, for the massive shortage of places where people have to live because it is the only place where they can get work. Tell the people of London where a quarter of a million families are queuing up for council houses and where there are 17,000 families in emergency accommodation for the homeless at this moment, where callers on housing aid centres have doubled in two years, and where house prices have risen from an average of £7,694 in 1970 to £30,568 in 1980 (a four-fold increase in ten years) that there is a housing surplus. Tell the 25,000 families waiting hopelessly on the waiting list in Leeds. Or the 20,000 families on the list in Manchester. Secondly, the so-called housing surplus includes every one of the nearly three million homes that are unfit for human habitation, lacking in facilities, or in need of repair. Thirdly, it includes every overcrowded family: every family in one or two rooms, every family where a child sleeps in the same room as its parents, every family with a young married couple living with them because they have been unable to find a home of their own. And what about the right price? One of the fundamental problems is the lack of choice for lower income families, because house prices and rents in the private sector are way beyond their income. Shelter has estimated that two-thirds of those that are not currently owner-occupied cannot afford to buy simply because their income is not high enough. The figure is as high as 83 per cent in the South-west, 80 per cent in Wales. Security of tenure Whenever there is a shortage of a basic human need, there is opportunity for exploitation. That has been proved over and over in British housing. That is why the creation of security of tenure did so much to take fear out of the lives of poorer families in the inner cities. But by the use of loop holes in the Rent Acts, notably so-called 'holiday lets' and the so-called 'non-exclusive' occupation licence, landlords are defying the Rent Act. For economic, not security reasons, the private landlords

### What must be done to build enough homes

- First, we need to assess properly the need for housing for the remainder of the century, properly calculate what can be provided by the different sectors, and encourage a housing programme to meet the needs and not based on destructive false predictions of an irrelevant so-called 'crude housing surplus'.
- Second, we need to re-establish housing as a priority for public expenditure and immediately increase expenditure so that at the very minimum, new building at least keeps pace with the growth in household formation, and at the very minimum, rehabilitation is at least sufficient to keep up with the decline of the housing stock.
- Third, we must make sure that we have both an extensive programme of new building and an extensive programme of rehabilitation and that one does not become an alternative to the other.
- Fourth, while encouraging home ownership wherever it is practicable we must not do so by refusing to acknowledge the need for adequate provision of rented accommodation, and in particular public sector housing.
- The whole question of housing finance needs to be re-examined and we have to face the absurdity of a situation where money in subsidies and tax relief is largely helping those who need it least.
- Given that it will take time to solve the housing crisis, we must eradicate the loop holes in the Rent Acts and take no further steps to weaken the security of tenants. We must not allow attitudes towards the homeless to deteriorate any further, and the exploitation of the 'intentionally homeless' provision in the Homeless Persons Act by local authorities must be stopped. We must have an effective safety net for the homeless.

Finally, the catastrophe — and I believe that is the correct word — that faces the nation is not just the responsibility of the politicians, or civil servants or local authorities or anyone else. The fact is that we have all failed, none more so than those of us who were so close to the problem in the sixties and early seventies and allowed ourselves to be lulled into a false sense of security. We must fight once more for a greater public spending on housing. It is cynical and dishonest to talk of public expenditure always in the negative, without acknowledging the tremendous return that over the years we have received for our money in terms of greater equality, social justice and relief of need.

## When red tape is better than sympathy

by Susan Beattie

As the International Year of the Disabled Person nears its end I have confronted as honestly as I can my own feelings about disability and the dreary image it presents. Twenty-five years ago I became ill with polio: it must have been among the last outbreaks of the disease in this country. At the end of the dark, bewildering tunnel of a London fever hospital, an orthopaedic hospital in the Oxford, a clinic in Switzerland, my parents' anguish and their huge outpouring of love and resources, I emerged with two totally paralysed legs, a wheelchair and a fearsome, sullen determination to crash through catastrophe and that, services life ignoring as best I could, my appallingly visible handicap. The history of art and (I was still adolescent) my own physical appearance and disability integration is ever to be achieved through charity. Who is in any doubt about the respective social status and self-esteem of do-gooders and those wretched done-for-to-bledged-by circumstances into the role of a domestic pet? I do not believe that integration will be achieved by the banding together of people with little but their infinitely varied disabilities in common and with no common pride to be taken in their very condition as other despised groups — women, black people, homosexuals — are able and right to take in theirs. I got over the first of those knife-edges with the help of many people — my mother and father above all — but there was, again, one circumstance alone on which the whole matter hung. The Courtauld Institute of Art in Portman Square, former town house of the art-loving textile magnate Samuel Courtauld, was still, when I was in my early twenties, the only place in England offering an RA Honours degree course in the history of art. It was equipped with a large and reliable lift, blessedly installed long before, by Courtauld for his wife and her wheelchair. Not once during the subsequent years of writing and research, of marriage and motherhood, of earning a living, did I come into direct contact with the vast network of voluntary and salaried workers-on-behalf-of-the-disabled who in this International Year have had such penetrating light thrown upon them. Not once, until this year, did I see myself as a Disabled Person, only as an art historian and a woman who happened to have to use a wheelchair. Much of the help I have needed has been given by countless kindly strangers who have simply done the job of lifting and gone on their way without question or privacy-intruding comment. But I have encountered horror in the world outside the face (almost invariably over 35) pushed too close to mine in a lift or on the street, asking the unanswerable "Aren't you people wonderful?" and thus betraying not a heart of gold but invisible emotional disability; the cin-

Susan Beattie

Our true allies are those who campaign for such statutory financial aid as the mobility allowance and the housing improvement and adaptation grants that come packaged, not in pitying, self-righteous glances, patronising smiles and sympathy, but in clean red tape: those who, in offering the public a service, ensure that the widest possible section of that public, including those with special needs, can take advantage of it; those who press for legislation to enforce, a basic standard of acceptability in the buildings that house the events and activities which give life a degree of meaning. Only by such dispassionate action will physically disabled people cease to provide a painful human platform for the ego trips of others, gain the freedom to take or leave the disability ghettos, as they choose and claim their place in society as of right. Fashion by Suzy Menkes will appear tomorrow.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### CRISIS IN THE PRISONS

It is unfortunate that the debate on prison conditions should have descended to an argument over whether judges and magistrates had or had not thwarted the plans of Mr Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, to introduce a system of earlier release for some prisoners. What is clear, not least from letters to *The Times* by Lord Justice Lawton and by the Chairman of the Magistrates' Association, is that the judiciary and the magistracy were opposed to the reform, and that their opposition was instrumental in deciding the Home Secretary to abandon it.

It was a weak decision on Mr Whitelaw's part, and one which could have a profoundly negative effect in dealing with the crisis of our prisons. When a firm and imaginative response was required, the Home Secretary was only prepared to tinker with the problem, for there can be no doubt that the "partially suspended" sentence, at best, is tinkering, and at worst may even increase the prison population.

It is not irrelevant that only a few months ago Home Office ministers were playing down the partially suspended sentence, on the grounds that there was no certainty that it would bring about any reduction at all in the numbers sent to prison. Suddenly, they are talking about a possible reduction of 4,000, though admitting the optimism of the estimate.

Releasing some categories of prisoners after one third of their sentences, with the second third spent under supervision, which was Mr Whitelaw's original plan, cannot be the sole plank of a policy to reduce the prison population, though it would help considerably. A simpler system would provide for remission of one-half for sentences under three years, without the need to bring in the probation service for a period of supervision.

A shorter average sentence is another necessary element in any attack on overcrowded prisons. Advocates of the policy are, largely, pushing against an open door. The Home Secretary, the Lord Chancellor, the senior judiciary, the Magistrates' Association are all converging and there are already indications that their advocacy has resulted in a lower level of sentencing for non-violent, relatively minor criminals, who are nevertheless considered to need a custodial sentence. Of course, serious offences, especially where

violence has been used, should not be brought into a policy of shorter sentencing. Muggers, robbers and rapists deserve little leniency — and should not be given any by the courts.

Sentencing policy is only one reason for our prisons crisis. Much blame lies in the physical state of the prisons themselves. In spite of a building programme which has escaped relatively unscathed from the cuts imposed in almost every other area of government expenditure, the environmental and sanitary conditions of many prisons verge on the inhumane. Local prisons containing short and medium term prisoners are, paradoxically, often in a worse state than establishments holding longer-term, more serious offenders.

Why should we concern ourselves with the comfort of those who have committed crimes against society? After all, the argument goes, they are in prison through choice. They did not have to offend, but, having done so, they should not be entitled to complain about the consequences.

One part of the answer is based on principle and humanity. Offenders have to pay the penalty of being deprived of their liberty. That is punishment enough. A civilized society should not ask, in addition, that prisoners should serve their time in conditions of misery and degradation. That does not mean that they should have comforts which are denied to many of the non-criminal population. A prison should not be a holiday camp. But it is equally unacceptable that they should spend 23 hours a day with two others in a cell designed for single occupancy, with no sanitation but a bucket in the corner.

There is also the self-interest of society. A prisoner who has been subjected to inhumane conditions is likely to come out of prison more embittered, more anti-social, more dehumanized, and hence more likely to offend again, than when he went in. It is also dangerous to keep men in such conditions. It is perhaps only a matter of luck that one or other of our prisons has not exploded with consequences far more serious than any yet seen.

Even with the more positive and flexible attitude to sentencing being taken by the courts, there are still many thousands of offenders being sent to prison who should not be there at all. There are the maintenance defaulters,

whose refusal to pay is often a wilful act of hostility against their former spouse. Prison does nothing for them except ensure further non-payment. There are other fine defaulters, whose usually trivial offences were initially not thought worthy of a custodial sentence. There are the drunks, for whom a planned network of drying-out centres has just not been built. There are offenders who need psychiatric treatment, but are sent to prison instead because the Department of Health and Social Security has failed to come up with the necessary facilities for treatment.

Still not enough attention — and resources — is being devoted to setting up non-custodial alternatives to prison. There is a great need for more day centres to which minor offenders could go, preferably with some form of training attached, and for more hostels. The use of community service should be expanded — it is a sentence which combines punishment and reparation without subjecting the offender to the disruption of his life which prison would entail. According to the latest figures, it costs, on average, £136 a week to keep a man in prison. No form of non-custodial sentence would cost anywhere near that much, even if by increasing the range of non-custodial facilities, the probation service would have to be expanded as well. For marginal cases, the Home Secretary should consider seriously instituting weekend detention — which works well in other countries — or day imprisonment, as recently suggested by the Magistrates' Association.

Britain and West Germany imprison far more people per head of population than any other country in Western Europe — and nearly four times as many as in the Netherlands. Yet crime in those countries which use imprisonment far less is not out of control. It is not necessary for the protection of society to have so many people in prison. Indeed, it can be counter-productive. But a great deal more imagination and money are needed to change significantly the trend of imprisonment in Britain. The Home Secretary's latest capitulation does not suggest either way to be forthcoming. It is not quite too late to change course. Mr Whitelaw should start, as we argued recently, by releasing some short-term, minor offenders, on an amnesty.

Whatever the prejudices with which he had to contend for much of his life, Admiral Rickover had already become head of the Electrical Section of the Bureau of Ships in Washington by the time of the Second World War, and had already evolved his own style of working. Instead of the administrative role in which he was appointed, in which he approved designs and awarded contracts which were then supervised by field officers, he insisted on making himself personally responsible not only for the construction, but also for the performance of electrical equipment, both under normal and combat conditions. He built up what was described as "the most creative, productive and technically competent section in the Bureau of Ships" and did the same when he became the father of America's nuclear navy. In his pre-nuclear career he had also rendered valuable service to the Royal Navy, and it was his great pride that this was the British Government then created him an honorary CBE.

It is, of course, possible that the immediate crisis which has threatened redundancy among university staff will be averted, and the Government will decide to give the universities more time than the three years now allowed them in which to adjust to smaller budgets. The signs are that if the universities can provide convincing evidence that a five-year plan would achieve better savings than a three-year plan (because it would avoid the need for sacking university teachers) and paying them compensation, then Sir Keith Joseph may yet decide to be more accommodating. Even if this were to happen it is important not to allow the question of tenure to be set aside. Any scheme to allow the universities more time to make the cuts demanded of them should be made contingent upon an agreement to review the university teacher's contract of service and the anomalies which now surround the pattern of chartered rights which it incorporates. It would be necessary to consider the alternative of short-term contracts, to safeguard research, and the merits of a uniform redundancy scheme in return for the cancellation of existing rights of tenure.

While tenure may entitle a professor or lecturer to compensation if he or she gets sacked, it does not give any automatic entitlement to annual salary increases. Even in the extreme form in which the Privy Council has chosen to enshrine tenure in some university charters, tenure is, therefore, a limited protection in an age of inflation which belongs to a settled world where private universities, financed from fees and endowments, did not have to discount galloping inflation. When a professor's salary could be guaranteed at a fixed sum from a given endowment invested in the funds or in land, it raised no obvious difficulty to give him unlimited security, and indeed, academic freedom was guaranteed by this means. The extension of tenure to a much larger body of teachers was underpinned by the continuous expansion of higher education over more than a century until now, when the system has suddenly gone into reverse.

Whatever the legal rights and wrongs of university teachers' present contracts, there are larger questions of public policy raised by the matter of tenure. Questions have to be asked about its nature and purpose. If the justification of tenure, like the parson's freehold, is to protect dons from dismissal for unpopular religious or political beliefs, it is questionable that the same arrangement should protect them from dismissal for incompetence or for financial exigency. It is commonly accepted as grounds for terminating tenure. That makes sense though it has not precluded either argument or litigation.

Of course, any such pro-

### Earlier release to ease prisons

From Lord Hunt  
Sir, I do not have the advantage of 46 years in the administration of justice acquired by Lord Justice Lawton (November 27). But as the first chairman of the Parole Board and subsequently as President of the National Association of Probation Officers, I write with some knowledge of the value of statutory supervision and after-care for offenders following a period of imprisonment.

My experience with colleagues on the board and in the probation service convinced me that, as a general proposition, it is in the greater public interest as well as that of the offender for recidivists to serve a part of their sentence under supervision in the community, rather than to stay in prison and be released without conditions or help from the probation service.

This factor of supervision on licence was not referred to by Lord Justice Lawton, yet it has a most important bearing on the matter.

It was certainly the experience of my colleagues and myself on the board, including a number of High Court judges, that petty persistent offenders against property, as well as others serving sentences in excess of 18 months but under three years' imprisonment, benefited from supervision during the middle third of their sentences. What is equally important is the fact of failure during parole resulting in recall to prison, has been contained consistently within an overall statistic of less than 10 per cent of all parolees.

It was also our experience that the grant of parole even for a few weeks, was more beneficial than a longer stay in prison; in the case of recidivists, that is a recipe for an endless, hopeless cycle of imprisonment with a growing incapacity to cope with life in the community. In the light of these facts about recidivists sentenced to more than 18 months in prison, it is surely true of those serving shorter terms. I, for one, deeply regret the decision of the Home Secretary, whatever the source of the advice he received, not to make a similar concession to release under supervision for all prisoners serving 18 months' imprisonment, or less. Such a step would certainly ease the critical overcrowding in our prisons, but it would not — to put it at its lowest estimate — be against the public interest to do so.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN HUNT,  
House of Lords,  
November 27.

### Admiral Rickover

From Lord Zuckerman, OM, FRSE  
Sir, Peter Ringle's article about Admiral Rickover (November 16) provides a vivid picture of a remarkable man, whose friendship I have enjoyed, and with whom I have cooperated, over many years. But I must take exception to the description of the admiral as having been a "humdrum competent naval engineer" before he made his name in designing reactors and introducing nuclear propulsion to the maritime world.

Whatever the prejudices with which he had to contend for much of his life, Admiral Rickover had already become head of the Electrical Section of the Bureau of Ships in Washington by the time of the Second World War, and had already evolved his own style of working. Instead of the administrative role in which he was appointed, in which he approved designs and awarded contracts which were then supervised by field officers, he insisted on making himself personally responsible not only for the construction, but also for the performance of electrical equipment, both under normal and combat conditions. He built up what was described as "the most creative, productive and technically competent section in the Bureau of Ships" and did the same when he became the father of America's nuclear navy.

In his pre-nuclear career he had also rendered valuable service to the Royal Navy, and it was his great pride that this was the British Government then created him an honorary CBE.

Yours faithfully,  
S. ZUCKERMAN,  
University of East Anglia,  
University Village,  
Norwich.

Off beat  
From Mr J. D. Liddell-King  
Sir, The melancholy report in today's *Times* (November 14) that vandals have badly damaged woodwork at the Old Curiosity Shop in Lincoln's Inn is another example of the consequence of withdrawing the patrolling constabulary from the streets. The citizen would be passenger on that Clapham omnibus that falls him, beset by disaffected youngsters, has no hope of such a constable's appearing round the corner.

In his *English Social History* Evelyn says: "A people fond of liberty property and personal safety like the good-natured and effective 'Bobbies'." The days of the inefficient Watchman were gone by for ever. Nowadays, not even the "inefficient watchman" perambulates the streets. The functioning of today's police is more comparable to that of the eighteenth-century Life Guards, emerging from their barracks only to deal with the Gordon riots, or a stoning in Lincoln's Inn Fields.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID LIDDELL-KING,  
34 Noke Shot,  
Harpenden,  
Hertfordshire.

### University cuts: which disciplines?

From Dr D. O'Brien  
Sir, Professor Wiseman (November 25) only repeats one fallacy with another when, in answer to the Vice-Chancellor of Bristol University, he includes "tolerance" among the benefits to be looked for from a university education in the classics. Bentley and Housman were perhaps the greatest English classical scholars. Can it possibly be said that either was a tolerant man?

The humanities do not provide a moral or a vocational training. Properly taught, they do inculcate intellectual virtues, but intellectual virtues are difficult to recognise for those who do not already possess them.

This is why the whole debate on university cuts seems so strange when viewed from France, where the new Government, without any of the advantages of North Sea oil, has just increased the subsidies available to pure research into what are happily called the sciences humaines.

There is an intellectual tradition in France which is lacking in England. Frenchmen, even politicians, largely recognise intellectual virtues for what they are: not a direct source of financial profit, nor a means to moral virtue, but an indispensable element none the less in any civilised society.

Yours faithfully,  
DENIS O'BRIEN,  
Université de Paris Sorbonne,  
Centre de Recherches sur la Pensée Antique,  
1 Rue Victor Cousin,  
Paris Ve,  
November 25.

From Mr T. Mervyn Jones  
Sir, The modern university has long ceased to be merely an ivory tower for academics. Its colleges today are much involved in industrial production. They undertake research work for the many official research councils and for industrial companies. Some either directly, or by using established companies as their agents, undertake the commercial exploitation of the results of their research.

A number have formed separate companies for these purposes. Rightly they follow the example of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology where Route 128 is an estate of industrial companies making commercial use of the results of their research. One of the best known is the Polaroid camera, a wholly new industry and product that stemmed from the research of one of its staff who combined work in the product-making company while still remaining on the institute's faculty.

Here in Wales our seven university colleges last year together had an income of £5.5m. from research councils alone. One of the professors at our Institute of Science and Technology had his invention of a Placemate robot being produced commercially by an outside company.

Sir David Orr in his recent

### Poland near crisis

From Mr Konrad Syrop  
Sir, A year ago the world was wondering if the Russians would invade Poland. On your pages Mr Bernard Levin was arguing that a Soviet armed intervention was inevitable, while I pointed out (in my letter to you published on November 6, 1980) that this was not necessarily so, given certain conditions in Poland.

Since then the Polish experiment has gone much further than most people expected, yet the Kremlin, though profiting from time to time, has not invaded. Now, however, it seems that the Soviet leaders' patience could soon be rewarded, unless the outside world heads the appeal for help from Mr Lech Walesa, recently by you last Saturday (November 21). Mr Walesa is asking for emergency food aid to stave off "dangerous social tensions and spontaneous bursts of popular anger". He is not exaggerating the danger of a famine, though he exaggerates what an extent Poland has become an economic disaster area. Not only food and fuel are extremely short, but hospitals are without elementary medical supplies, factories and shops are for lack of spares, and the shops are empty of essential consumer goods. With the harsh Polish

### Kosovo sentences

From Mr Harry Hodgkinson  
Sir, May I compliment your disturbing report on the Kosovo prison sentences (November 20) with a few relevant statistics?

In the 156 cases for which official Yugoslav press reports are available, the average sentence was eight years. Of the 71 prisoners whose ages are given, the average is 27; of the 81 whose status is also given, 32 are students, 21 schoolteachers and university lecturers, 10 are professional (lawyer, Muslim priest etc.) and eight skilled workers, with eight described as "workmen" and two as "farmers".

It is thus hard to resist the conclusion that the trials were a deliberate attempt to silence, for years to come, the articulate professional elite of the Albanian minority in Yugoslavia. Your correspondent points out that Kosovo is administered as part of the republic of Serbia. This is the heart of the problem. Albanians and Serbs have an hereditary antipathy; but this does not apply between Albanians and other Slav nationalities of Yugoslavia. These others have, however, a clear responsibility to ensure, for the credibility of Yugoslav federalism, that justice should be, and should be seen to be, equal for all the peoples of Yugoslavia, non-Slavs as well as Slavs.

The point is timely, because

lecture to the Royal Society of Arts (*The Times*, November 10) strongly urged the development of a selective industrial strategy geared to the promotion of high technology ventures. He approved of the moves by the Department of Industry in promoting information technology and the creation of the British Technology Group. The department itself now makes massive grants to keep in production existing industries and, through the development agencies, to encourage new and growth industries, particularly in the "assisted" areas where traditional old industries have been cut and will never regain their former size.

May we hope that the Secretary of State formerly for Industry, now for Education, in compelling the University Grants Committee to impose drastic cuts in university expenditure, will instruct the UGC to exempt from these cuts so much of each university's expenditure as relates directly to their research work for industry and in promoting new industry? This former department could find their admirable work in support of new science based on technological industry set at naught by the destruction of university work from which stems the research now of such proved value to industry and the growth of "winners" in industrial production.

His Prime Minister has declared her full support for all measures to create promising profitable new industries. We cannot garner the rich harvest of new production if the seed corn is destroyed.

Yours faithfully,  
T. MERVYN JONES,  
Member of Council, University of Wales,  
Llandaff, Cardiff.

From Professor A. W. Stanforth  
Sir, Readers of the article, "Pressures on the linguists," by Sandra Hampel (*The Times*, November 19) may be interested to learn that there is one university in the United Kingdom offering undergraduate training in interpreting and translating. I refer to the Department of Languages of this university, which has been offering the degree of B.A. Languages (Interpreting and Translating) since 1970. Like the other courses mentioned in the article ours is heavily oversubscribed with, on average, 350 applicants for 29 places.

Sandra Hampel's statement that "language skills are traditionally undervalued" in the United Kingdom seems, alas, to be all too true in view of the recent Government and U.G.C. proposals, which seem to favour the more traditional literature-based courses.

Yours faithfully,  
A. W. STANFORTH,  
Heriot-Watt University,  
Department of Languages,  
Chambers Street,  
Edinburgh,  
November 24.

winter just beginning, the brave experiment to introduce a measure of freedom and democracy in a communist-ruled country is in real danger of collapse. Time is needed for Poland to sort herself out after the convulsions of the past 15 months, time to allow reforms to become effective and the economy to begin functioning again; above all, time to demonstrate to the people that they can have both a measure of freedom and bread and butter as well. And that time can only be gained by an immediate, massive and concerted programme of short-term aid.

Charitable organizations and many individuals are already doing much, but this is not, nor can it be, enough. Re-scheduling Polish debts and the sales of some cheap surplus EEC food, are not enough either. Only a large-scale international emergency aid effort can save the situation.

It is conceivable that governments and trade unions will be content just to watch the disintegration of the most encouraging movement in the Soviet sphere? Yours faithfully,  
KONRAD SYROP,  
Flat 5,  
15 St German's Place,  
Blackheath, SE3,  
November 23.

there are indications that some, if not all, of the Kosovo prisoners may be sent to serve their sentences outside Serbia, above all to notorious prison islands in the Adriatic. Readers of *The Times* planning holidays in Dalmatia may wish to ask themselves whether they can conscientiously share that sublime landscape with these less willing visitors. Yours faithfully,  
HARRY HODGKINSON,  
45 Linhope Street, NW1.

### Gordon's 'Dream'

From the Reverend T. M. McCarthy  
Sir, The delightful story in today's *Times* Diary ("Salutary humour" November 26) recalled to me the interesting facts that your Khartoum correspondent (Power) possessed Gordon's copy of Newman's *Dream of Gerontius* which, with pencil markings of certain passages, is to be found at the Birmingham Oratory, and, pasted on to one of the presses in Cardinal Newman's room there is *The Times* map of Gordon's movements. So those two minds were at one in that happy time. The copy of the "Dream" reappears the Oratory through one of the Power family. Yours sincerely,  
T. M. MCCARTHY,  
Dawes House,  
Burwash, East Sussex.

### Danger of taste for spy stories

From the Warden of Wadham College, Oxford  
Sir, I recently had a disagreeable experience. A journalist from a national newspaper, one that is not ordinarily associated with sensationalism, showed me a draft of an article that he had written, apparently to be published on the following day, which insinuated that I was plausibly suspected of having been a Soviet agent.

There were one or two definitely false and defamatory statements. But most of the article was innuendo. For example, it was rightly stated that I had been interrogated in the early sixties about my relations with Professor Blunt and with other security intelligence. But the writer had omitted to say that nearly everyone who had been associated with secret military intelligence in the war, was interrogated at that time, and this was a very large class.

The method of the proposed article was genteel British McCarthyism, playing on guilt by association and on the suspicions of sources in the secret service. I remonstrated with the journalist, a persuasive friend remonstrated with the acting editor, and after an interval we were told that the article would not appear. The newspaper later expressed his regret.

This episode raises questions. Ought not this selling of newspapers with the aid of speculative spy stories to come to an end? Ought not to question the cant about public service when the methods of investigative journalism are applied to people who are obliged by the original conditions of their service to conceal much of what they know? Ought not former members of a security service to be discouraged from hawking stories round Fleet Street, if they are doing this?

Do we want a demoralised intelligence service and demoralised security services? Security and secrecy are intelligently impossible unless secrets, even about the past, are tightly kept.

Nothing in this letter is intended to imply that the competent authorities should not make every effort, using their appropriate methods, to discover and to neutralise secret agents of foreign powers. Yours faithfully,  
STUART HAMPSHIRE,  
Wadham College,  
Oxford,  
November 28.

### Infant deaths

From Dr Bruce Elsmore  
Sir, Very recently, my daughter lost her 19-day old baby in a cot death. There can be few worse ordeals than for a mother to lose a baby in such circumstances. She suffers intense shock, followed soon by an overwhelming sense of guilt, occasioned by a senseless investigation upon my daughter.

It is, of course, clear that all cases of sudden death must be properly investigated, but unless there is evidence from the pathologist of foul play, it seems quite unnecessary for the police to invade the home of the distressed mother and question her at length. Such action, however sympathetically executed, can only make matters worse. Cot deaths are not caused by suffocation and the cause will not be found by the police at the scene of the tragedy, measuring up the cot and filling in forms. Surely, the police involvement could all take place at a distance. There is a very special relationship between a nursing mother and her baby and, when the baby suddenly and mysteriously dies, the last thing we want is to treat the mother like a murderer. I strongly plead for a change in the current practice. Yours faithfully,  
BRUCE ELSMORE,  
22 Roman Hill,  
Barton,  
Cambridge,  
November 26.

### Law Lords

From M. B. Daniels  
Your Legal Correspondent states (November 25) that law lords are appointed by the Lord Chancellor. As the appointments entail creation of life peerages they must surely rest with the Prime Minister. Similarly, since members of the Court of Appeal always become Privy Counsellors, their appointment must also be a matter for the Prime Minister. Yours faithfully,  
M. B. DANIELS,  
134 Bradshaw Road,  
Bradshaw, Bolton.

### State of habitability?

From Mr Esmond Warner  
Sir, The suggestion (report, November 24) that Spencer House be restored as a "stately" residence for the Prince and Princess of Wales, née Spencer, is interesting and imaginative. But surely a high proportion of the great doors and their frames were some years ago embodied in Althorp by the late Lord Spencer; with such good taste that you would think they had been there for ever. So that, therefore, Spencer House today is something of a shell. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
ESMOND WARNER,  
Summer Hill,  
Lolworth, Cambridge.







THE ARTS

Television  
Amin's legacy

World in Action lives up to its title. In the field of current affairs its teams constitute something of a Foreign Legion, and Granada must surely pay some high insurance premiums. Last week a team produced an excellent report from South Africa on asbestos mining and the toll it takes in African lives; last night the corner of the world under scrutiny was Uganda.

The four-man team entered the country twice: once secretly walking through the bush from the Sudan to link up with guerrillas; once by car from Kenya. Neither could have been other than a hazardous journey for, long after the departure of the ignominious and absurd Amin, slaughter continues. Several British journalists have been expelled in the last few months by President Obote's government, which has, since the disputed elections, failed to bring law and order to the country but obviously does not want the extent of that failure to be widely known.

Refugees, estimated at 250,000, mostly poor farmers, have fled to the Sudan and Zaire where many now face death from starvation. It was in the Sudan that the Granada team visited refugee camps and heard the grim stories of atrocity. From this and further testimony inside Uganda, where whole villages are deserted, it appears that Obote's rag-tag army is out of control, murdering, raping, torturing and looting.

Even the capital, Kampala, suffers the Army's rampages with the steady sound of gunfire by day and night, and no less a witness than the Anglican Archbishop testified that the killing was worse than during Amin's regime. Round the capital soldiers at road-blocks compensate for their lack of pay by exacting a toll from travellers and savaging those who cannot pay.

In Northern Uganda, troops conduct a tribal war, visiting the sins of Amin on his luckless fellow tribesmen who were far from the scene of his actions, while in the North-West former soldiers of Amin, who now say they have no wish to renege him but only to obtain new elections, dominate the country.

It seems from the *World in Action* report that its title, *Bleeding to Death*, is amply justified. The intrepid team producer Michael Beckham, researcher Michael Gillard, cameraman David Oddy and sound man David Woods — are to be congratulated.

Dennis Hackett

United States galleries  
Resolute eye on the recent past



Flash and outrage: Fischer's 'The Blue Zebra'

Never mind about "trends"; just tell us what is on. Excellent advice, I would say, especially since, in some sense, critics always invent trends anyway. But, faced with the multiplicity of art shows in any sizable American centre at any given time, it is not easy to put into practice. The urge to make overall sense of what one sees, to find some underlying pattern, is too strong. And it so happens that such a pattern does present itself in the present activities of the main museums and galleries in Chicago, Washington, and New York: the three centres I have recently visited.

The gaze seems to be resolutely retrospective, but on the whole towards the recent past, such as may be of use in helping us make sense of the present, rather than towards the wonders of the ancient or medieval world. (Though I must admit that the Metropolitan's big art of the 1920s show in New York until January 10 is a stunning exception, transporting us enchantingly to a world where the elegance of the artefacts belies the bloody history.) It is perhaps not too imaginative to see this interest in the development of twentieth-century art in America and Europe, as a natural counterpart and reaction to an evident lack of direction in the new art on display.

In Chicago there are still traces of the strong local flavour established a few years ago by the "Hairy Who" group and their fellow-travellers: flash and outrage are the predominant notes, and an interesting new entry is Bob Fischer, apostle of "Bizarro", whose thin, stone-studded paintings of figures from pop culture are on show at the Pavilion for the Arts, N. Wells Street, until the end of the year; he appears to have more solid talents than most when he gets tired of being studiously outrageous. In Washington the taste seems to go mainly for various kinds of very detailed realism; safe art for senators, maybe. In New York the SoHo galleries are as usual going in all directions at once, but the most evident new move is a kind of revival in Abstract Expressionism: not only has the time for renewed interest in the great originals come round, but a certain nostalgia is manifesting itself, improbably enough, for the 1950s as a safe, established time when the New York School was definitely top of the heap and New York itself took unquestioned lead in world art.

In such a context, all the shows devoted to the twentieth-century classics of American art make a special sense. In Chicago, for instance, the Edward Hopper show, seen in a truncated form over here earlier in the year, has resumed its American career restored to full strength at the Art Institute, and moves on to San Francisco Museum of Modern Art on December 17. Chicago's Museum of Contemporary Art has, until January 3, a retrospective of Charles Gurnsey, centred on his series of "Circles and Towers Growing", miniature clay constructions charting the rise and fall of an imaginary civilization of "little people", meticulous but a bit too cute for comfort.

Right next door, however, at the Gilman Galleries, is a long-overdue retrospective of Boris Anisfeld (1879-1973), a Russian Symbolist and early Dadaist designer who settled in Chicago and became an influential teacher during the second half of his long life, moving in his painting from brilliantly coloured subjects from Russian legend, by way of pale, suave, rather Deco compositions between the wars, to equally colourful evocations of life in the Old West, fantasized in a manner slightly suggestive of Chagall.

In New York I caught the tail-end of a show devoted to the rediscovery of an even longer-lived painter and teacher, John R. Grabach, who was born in 1880 (though some sources say 1886) and died earlier this year, still busy teaching in his hundred-and-second year. As an active painter for nearly 80 years, he naturally moved through various styles, including early impressionism, a socially-conscious phase akin to Bellows, a period of monumental symbols and some late and indefinite landscapes. Well worth the effort of the Graham Gallery, Madison Avenue, to unearth; but then, they specialize in such operations, and by now have on an equally revealing show of hitherto unknown landscape watercolours by the cartoonist John Held Jr.

The main museum show of recent American work, that devoted to Roy Lichtenstein in the last decade at the Whitney (then from December 16 at Fort Worth), is disappointing: a lot of ingenuity has been expended on these reworkings of twentieth-century masters in Lichtenstein's unmistakable style, but one does come out wondering slightly why he bothered.

Clearly far more inspiring for today's painters must be Krasner, Pollock, A Working Relationship at

vivid puppets she made for a 1913 stage production of Gozzi's *König Hirsch*, or the boldly conventionalized portrait of her husband, are among the most charming works of that whole avant garde.

There remain the two blockbuster shows devoted to aspects of twentieth-century art in Europe, Art of the Avant Garde in Russia, selections from the George Costakis Collection at the Guggenheim Museum in New York until January 3, and Rodin Rediscovered at the National Gallery of Art, Washington, until May 2. The story of the Costakis Collection is so curious it may draw attention away from the works themselves: Costakis, a Russian-born Greek, began collecting works of the early Soviet revolutionary avant garde in the darkest days of Stalinist disapproval, being apparently the only man in Russia then interested, and by the time he emigrated to the West in 1977 with about a fifth of his collection (the rest went to the Tretyakov, which 25 years earlier would hardly have deigned to spit on it), it numbered many hundreds of pieces. At a stroke, they transform our view of Russian Art in the 1920s, introducing us to many other strains of avant-garde thinking than the familiar Malevich-Tatlin-Rodchenko line.

In particular, there is a school of mystical/transcendental free-form abstraction headed by Matyushin and four members of the Ender family (all of whom were deeply involved with music as well and concerned with the relationships between the media), the brilliant and versatile Kliun, and the Suprematist Rozanova, who turns up astonishingly painting (far more beautifully) a perfect Barnett Newman, *Green Stripe*, in 1917. It is seldom indeed that a single exhibition requires us to rewrite a whole section of art history, let alone have such a good feeling for it. (All the Western collection as such as can be documented of Tretyakov holdings are full catalogued and illustrated, mostly in colour, in a superb volume just published in this country by Thames and Hudson at £28.)

As for Rodin: why does he need rediscovering, you might well ask. But to retrace through the four floors of the National Gallery's new block allocated to the show is to realize how far we usually take his standing for granted, without testing it against actual experience of the work. Almost everything of any importance he did throughout his long working life is here, in one version or another, with a gloriously stuffy recreation of an 1870s Salon to set the scene for his arrival and a startling range of twentieth-century sculpture to show the influence he exerted even after his death.

The evidence of the show is overwhelming: Rodin is the greatest sculptor since Michelangelo, with a joyous inventiveness and sheer technical virtuosity which defy comparison. Just one room — that which contains the *Gates of Hell* and all its offshoots — would be enough to make anyone else's reputation ten times over. It is a sad conclusion that nowadays only the resources of a major American museum could put such a show together, and if we are to see it the only thing to do is hop on a stand-by or confide ourselves to Freddie Laker. Even so, it is likely to be cheaper than going to Berlin, Rome or Madrid, and culturally just as well worth it.

John Russell Taylor



Kupfer: controversy unimportant

Interview  
Making people react

Harry Kupfer, recently appointed Director of the Komische Oper in Berlin, is used to trailing clouds of controversy behind him. His first two productions in Britain, *Elektra* and *Fidelio*, both for the Welsh National Opera, prompted delight and outrage in just about equal proportion. His *Flying Dutchman* at Bayreuth in 1976 was a slice of operatic history, although audience attitudes changed considerably when it was revived, just as they did to the once-derided Chereau *Ring*. Kupfer's first production for London, *Pelléas and Mélisande* at the Coliseum, inevitably opened to mixed reactions, although by his own standards it is quite a mild interpretation.

Kupfer, a slight, flaxen-haired and apparently undogmatic man in his early forties, denies that he seeks to provoke. "Having the reputation of being a controversial producer is utterly unimportant to me. But I do like to see a public reacting and fighting between themselves over whether to approve or disapprove. Of course I cannot please everyone, and I don't set out to do that. But I do see the theatre as a forum to discuss the problems all of us face."

It has been suggested that Kupfer saves many of his surprises for Western Europe, but the first production he mounted as Director of the Komische Oper, *Die Meistersinger*, was totally unrealistic. He used a single set of a tree on a revolving stage with various rooms placed in its branches. He is reluctant to comment on the quality of his own work, but he does admit that for once the audiences appeared to relish the comedy in Wagner's opera.

The formative influence on Kupfer was the Komische Oper under Walter Felsenstein. "I grew up in Berlin and it was the chance of seeing him at his peak that made me want above all to be an opera producer. Otello, *La traviata*, *Die schweigsame Frau*... these were the operas that shaped my mind. I have to admit though that I first saw Pelléas when I was 14 at the Stadtsoper, a very conventional staging, as I recall, although there was a young Schlemm, an artist I admire hugely and whom I've often worked with, as Ynold. We used to say that you went to the Stadtsoper to hear a concert in costume and to the Komische Oper to go to the theatre."

"It's always been assumed that I was one of Felsenstein's assistants. I never was, but we did become great friends. He attended my productions, usually at a late stage of rehearsal, and criticized them minutely. Now I am a bit of his spirit every day, spurring me on to the standards I am trying to achieve. I share his love for Offenbach and the next one of his operettas we put on I want to direct myself. And I cherish too the unique relationship that he built up between the tiny stage of the Komische Oper and the audience."

Kupfer has never staged *Pelléas* in Berlin, but he did mount it in Dresden, where, as at the Coliseum, the stage was dominated by a great, hovering black bird. In other respects the Coliseum scenery by Reinhard Heinrich is much more abstract: two brightly lit movable greenhouses have replaced the romantic ruins used in Dresden. Kupfer is reluctant to explain his images lest he conditions audience response, which he believes should be totally individual. But he does admit that the bird could be seen, among several other things, as fate pressing down on the characters of the opera.

"I have never regarded *Pelléas* as a fairy story. Allegory perhaps, but not a fairy tale. It is the most important of the turn-of-the-century operas and what attracts me to it is that it sums up — and even sublimates — the neuroses of the time. Everyone in the opera is a captive of self-imposed isolation. They are so frustrated that they are frightened to touch one another; those who allow their skins to meet do so with the greatest reluctance."

"We have a word in German, *Erfenheitsturm*, which goes right to the centre of *Pelléas*. It translates exactly as 'ivory tower'. The relationship of the principal characters in their ivory towers to the world outside is crucial. They all lead abnormal lives. The atmosphere is very close to Thomas Mann's *Der Zauberberg*, with its metaphors of the illness of the time and its men and women reluctant to leave the isolation of the sanatorium."

"*Pelléas* is a typical fin-de-siècle piece and I hope we have placed it in the Masterplan era while providing the occasional bridge back into the past as well as up into our own day."

John Higgins

LSO/Svetlanov  
Festival Hall

On a recent visit to London, Yevgeny Svetlanov conducted Elgar's second symphony. On Sunday afternoon he and the London Symphony Orchestra, with its chorus and soloists, gave us Elgar's *The Dream of Gerontius*, and will repeat it this evening in the Festival Hall.

It was clear at once that Svetlanov knows and loves the work; the full, carpeted Elgarian orchestral sound was grandly reproduced, and cared for, by conductor as well as orchestra. He was attentive to the varied colouring of the choral music, in for example "Praise to the Holiest," and obtained a brilliant instantaneous blaze of blinding light at the moment when the soul of Gerontius meets his Maker. The final chorus of the first part, in which the Priest and the choir in glorious, mournful set the dead man's soul on its momentous

journey, was grandly and deliberately muffled. Ultimately, though, it was a boring performance because Svetlanov was content to contemplate the nobility of the music, at the expense of the dramatic energy which makes *Gerontius* stand out among Victorian British oratorios. The pulsating red blood which Elgar inherited, creatively, from Handel via Wagner's *Parsifal*. The Demons' Chorus should snarl and bite and blaze, but it plodded. The Angel's Farewell, reverently delivered by Helen Watts, was beautifully unfolded under Svetlanov's direction, but the underlying pulse was not strong enough to attract attention through to the end.

Elgar's part-writing for orchestra and voices is elaborate in *Gerontius*, and every strand has something to contribute. Svetlanov ardently appreciates this, but he held his forces on a part, in which the Priest and soloists in glorious, mournful set the dead man's soul on its momentous

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ECO/Menubin  
Queen Elizabeth Hall

The ECO reached Salzburg on Sunday in their series that follows Mozart, in a chronologically rather erratic fashion, around Europe. All Mozart's violin music belongs to his Salzburg years, so it was a happy idea to have Yehudi Menuhin take charge. Happy, too, to slip in an extra item: with violin and viola soloists on hand for what is arguably Mozart's finest piece of ensemble playing, it was easy to represent his last visit, in 1783, to his native city, by adding one of the duets he produced there.

The earliest item, from just 10 years before, was a divertimento. It would have been kinder to this little piece, K 205, to use just a solo violin and viola there alone, along with bassoon, double bass and the routine pair of horns, not just because that is what Mozart intended, but because instrumental multiplication always involves aesthetic subtraction in such cases: the massed violins produce a galumphing effect, however neatly they play, in the rapid passage work, and the Adagio's personal flexibility of expression is forfeit.

Mr Menuhin played affectionately in the G major Concerto, with a sweet golden tone of much vitality and warm sustained lines in what was a rather rhapsodic ending of the Adagio. Once or twice the bow moved tensely

and jerkily; the Rondo was never quite relaxed. His colleague in the Sinfonia Concertante was Ludwig Bianchi, a musician of rather different temperament from his own and gifted with a sure technique and a wonderfully throaty, resonant tone. Should the soloists in a double concerto contrast quite so markedly in their manner of nuance? We had Mr Menuhin far readier to shade the music with hints of portamento and rubato, Mr Bianchi much more incisive and direct. But it was still a fine piece of ensemble playing, each leading sensitively and invitingly into the other's music.

Stanley Sadie

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In the last movement of Beethoven's *Roméo et Juliette*, Friar Lawrence has two short, blunt, unaccompanied phrases: "Je vais dévoiler le mystère" and "Voilà toute la vérité". His succinct narration to the Montagues and Capulets and to us of the marriage and death of Roméo and Juliette epitomizes the most remarkable quality of this work: that this vast "symphonic dramatic" is, right until the end, a masterpiece of distancing and understatement.

Beethoven makes it clear in his Preface that the last scene alone belongs to opera. (Ricciardi's *Waldstein* and the Philharmonia did not quite resist the temptation to dramatize too soon the dis-

than Miss Frutkin's reprehensible cuts in the finale. The slow movement of each sonata was richly expressive. For Mozart's "Dunport" variations she found a telling naturalness of phrasing. Novot's neo-Rachmaninovian Five Miniatures confirmed her as an undemonstrative musician with an ear for sonority per se.

Patricia Flory, from Lincolnshire, gave two little thought to refinements of touch. That Faure and Debussy lived in a different sound-world from Beethoven did not concern her. Even Haydn's E flat Sonata and Impromptu by Schubert

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## هكذا من الأهل







## A record 30 million television viewers

By Eilkan Allan

A record number of viewers are believed to have watched television on the evening of November 18. Figures released yesterday by BARB show that between 7.30pm and 8pm more than 30 million were seated in front of their television sets.

Fifteen million were watching the soccer match between England and Hungary on BBC1; 13,400,000 were viewing *Coronation Street* on ITV; meanwhile, an unexpected 2 million were watching *Colin Firth* on BBC2 about antique aircraft, lawn mowers, toys and prams.

Despite an increase in the soccer audience as the match went on, ITV's entertainment line-up of *Starburst* and *Diamonds* kept the soccer from reaching the No. 1 position even in the BBC 1 Top Ten for the week ending November 22.

The cart-topper in both the BBC 1 list and the combined chart was *The Mander* film, which also managed to pull its successors programmes, *Bergerac* and *Dallas*, into second and ninth places in BBC1's Top Ten.

This continued dominance of BBC 1 of Sunday nights is a headache for ITV space salesmen, who are upset at their planners' unsuccessful Sunday night line-up of *Magnus*, *The Professionals*, and the LWT sitcom *A Fine Romance*, with Judi Dench.

## World's top wheat crop forecast

By Michael Prest

A record world wheat harvest of 453 million tonnes is likely this year, the International Wheat Council says in its latest report. The IWC points out, however, that against a background of deteriorating food production in eastern Europe, the Soviet Union is committed to importing 52 million tonnes of wheat, coarse grains and soyabean before the end of June 1982.

A harvest of 453 million tonnes would be eight million tonnes higher than last year's and two million tonnes more than the previous best year of 1978. The IWC has raised its forecast by three million tonnes because of an unexpected increase of 2.5 million tonnes to 36.5 million tonnes in the Indian crop.

World trade in wheat is thought likely to be 102 million tonnes, a growth of nine million tonnes over the year. Higher consumption will reduce stocks, however, from 44.5 million tonnes in 1980-81 to 43.4 million in 1981-82.

In the past the poor performance of agriculture in the Soviet Union and eastern Europe has effectively squeezed poorer Third World countries out of the market. The IWC now estimates that the Soviet Union has entered into actual and potential commitments to buy 22m tonnes of wheat, 28m tonnes of coarse grains, and 2m tonnes of soyabean between July 1981 and June 1982.

Czechoslovakia, Poland and Romania are also suffering shortfalls in grain production. The Czech wheat crop will fall by 1.6m tonnes to 11.6m.

Poland's crop will rise by 400,000 tonnes to 4.6m tonnes, but the country will still have to import 3.5m tonnes.

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62.21	Armitage & Rhodes	43	-	4.3	10.0	3.6	8.1
200.92	Bardon Hill	190	-	9.7	5.1	9.2	11.2
104.88	Deborah Services	91	-	5.5	6.0	4.5	6.5
126.83	Frank Harsall	120	-	6.7	3.3	10.8	26.1
110.29	Frederick Parker	60	-	1.7	2.8	26.1	-
110.46	George Blair	46	-	-	-	-	-
102.93	IPC	97	-	7.0	7.2	3.1	6.9
113.59	Jackson Group	98	-	7.0	7.1	3.1	7.0
130.103	James Burrough	110	-	8.7	7.9	8.0	10.1
334.254	Robert Jenkins	268	-	31.3	11.7	3.7	9.5
59.50	Scruttons "A"	54	-	5.3	9.8	8.3	7.7
224.173	Torday Limited	173	-	15.1	8.7	6.7	11.5
23.8	Twinkl Ord	134	-	-	-	-	-
90.68	Twinkl 15% ULS	72d	-	15.0	20.8	-	-
56.33	Unilock Holdings	32	-	3.0	8.4	5.7	9.7
103.81	Walter Alexander	80	-	6.4	8.0	5.3	9.3
263.181	W. S. Yates	214	-	13.1	6.1	4.1	8.2

## More jobs go at Shell as demand drops

By Clive Cookson and Michael Parrott

Shell UK is to cut the workforce at its Shell Haven refinery in Essex by another 435 over the next five years, in response to Britain's rapidly declining demand for oil products.

The jobs losses, announced yesterday, will come on top of the 1,820 cut in 1978 and 1,270 in 1983. Shell also gave warning that there might be compulsory redundancies after the end of 1982. It has guaranteed that reductions will be on a voluntary basis until then.

The company said, total demand for its oil products in the United Kingdom was now estimated at about 13 million tonnes a year for the remainder of the 1980s. The rationalisation programme drawn up for Shell Haven in 1978 was based on the over-optimistic projection that demand would reach 18 million tonnes a year.

The sharp reduction in United Kingdom consumption of oil products expected over the next 10 years will almost certainly lead to refinery closures. But the units that remain should have little difficulty coping with an expected switch away from heavy oil and gas/diesel oil lighter products such as gasoline.

This emerges from a study published in Paris' International Energy Agency and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development under the title: *Refining flexibility in the OECD area 1979-1985-1990*.

According to the report,

prepared by Petroleum Economics of London, British consumption of oil products is likely to fall to 70 million tonnes in 1990 from 93 million in 1975.

Output of United Kingdom refineries is seen as falling to 79 million tonnes from 98 million in 1979. If none of the 133 million tonnes of distillation capacity is shut down in the meantime, United Kingdom refineries would end up operating at only 59 per cent capacity compared with 73 per cent two years ago.

But the report is much more encouraging about the ability of United Kingdom refineries to cope with a switch in demand that is likely to follow from reduced consumption of heavier oils by the Electricity Board, industry, and even households. Thanks to major conversion investments, refineries should have little difficulty cutting back their output of heavy oils to 19 million from 29 million tonnes and of gas/diesel to 24 million from 33 million tonnes.

On the basis of existing investments, which include a doubling of catalytic cracking facilities, United Kingdom refineries are likely to be only three million tonnes short of gasoline in 1990 and have a surplus of two and one million tonnes respectively in fuel oil and gas/diesel. It should not, therefore, be difficult to make the appropriate investment which would bring output more closely in line with requirements.

## Steelmen seek more public investment

By Peter Hill, Industrial Editor

Shrinking demand has spurred Britain's already hard-pressed constructional steel companies to urge the Government to step up capital investment in the industry.

The call was made against the background of industry forecasts that next year will see a 5 per cent drop in demand for steel for United Kingdom projects. This comes on top of an estimated 16 per cent fall this year — the worst fall in total output in any one year, overall sales are likely to be down 14 per cent.

In its latest report prepared for the National Economic Development Council, the industry's sector working party said that only a modest improvement was expected in 1983 while over the period since 1974 overall fall in the industry's output amounted to 30 per cent.

Last year, the industry's output was valued at £834

million with total employment at 30,000, reflecting the cutbacks in capacity which the recession has forced companies to implement. Exports, which amounted to 7 per cent of total output, were estimated to have recovered this year after an 18 per cent drop last year, but at between 70,000-75,000 tonnes, exports are currently running at half the level of three years ago, while international competition has become acute.

There is considerable evidence that imposed limits, for example the external finance limits of the nationalised industries, are creating arbitrary restrictions on capital investment, without reference to economic criteria such as the likely return on capital.

In its submissions, the working party has also urged the Government to consider setting up a scheme under which more assistance would be provided to exporters of capital "one off" products.

## BPC buys Carlisle printers

By Our Financial Staff

Mr Robert Maxwell, chairman of the British Printing Corporation, announced yesterday with Mr Ian McIsaac of Touche Ross, accountants, completion of the sale of Carlisle Web Offset to BPC.

Failure to agree sale terms with print unions at the Carlisle plant had earlier terminated a provisional agreement on the sale. As a result of completing the agreement, Carlisle Web Offset, which prints the northern edition of *The Times*, will trade as a wholly owned subsidiary of BPC.

The company yesterday offered 150 permanent and 110 temporary jobs to the 260 former employees made redundant by the receivers.

Mr Maxwell told the workforce that the company would continue as an important web offset printer in Carlisle.

## MK Electric up 5pc midway

A fall in interest charges arising from tight control of costs helped MK Electric, one of the country's leading electrical accessories groups, to boost pretax profits by 5 per cent in the six months to September.

The profits rose to £3.2m from £3m on sales 11 per

## Discounts draw Christmas shoppers

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Deep discounting of toys at many retail outlets backed by heavy promotional spending is bringing the first flush of Christmas shopping cheer to Britain's depressed retailers. Christmas spenders are also thronging new shopping centres like Brent Cross and Croydon in the London suburbs as well as those in the regions.

Spending on credit, particularly in the use of bank credit cards, is reported to be up. But most retailers still expect the biggest part of the Christmas shopping rush to be concentrated in the last few days before the holiday week-end.

London's Oxford Street and Regent Street were crowded with shoppers yesterday but the latest returns of the John Lewis Partnership on its 18 department stores show less growth in its Oxford Street store than at many regional centres. The Oxford Street store in the week ended November 21 had sales increases of 3.9 per cent on annual comparison compared with 17.4 at Brent Cross and a 16.2 per cent rise at Milton Keynes.

The Retail Consortium said yesterday that toy sales in a new analysis of retailing prospects. Trade would probably remain weak in the first half of next year, it was forecast. The report added: "Some modest recovery seems possible in the latter part of next year but it will be heavily dependent on a further decline in the savings ratio."

Mail orders have been particularly hit this year with the Christmas quarter likely to show only a nominal increase in value terms, says Phillips & Drew. This means volume sales would be down. Mail order has been affected partly by the cut-price promotions on the high street and partly by the traditional mail order customers



Christmas magic in a London toyshop: spending is up.

have seen a particularly sharp squeeze on living standards, says the report.

The cut-price battle in toys is producing a split in sales for those retailers spending heavily on advertising promotions. The Argos discount catalogue showroom chain's sales last week rose 25 per cent on the week before, although the first three weeks of November had seen sales declines in real terms.

But Redgate, of Sheffield, biggest toy retailers in the North of England, reported sales volumes so far slightly down on the same period last year, with more shoppers resorting to credit to make their Christmas purchases. But like other toy retailers, Redgate reports high sales of electronic games, even those approaching £100 in price.

Small electrical goods are already the target of Christmas shoppers and the video cassette recorder sales boom is continuing.

At Hamleys in Regent Street, the retailer which has not joined the cut-price battle — sales were reported by Mr Brian Griffin, managing director, to be considerably up on the same time last year.

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## Builders urge change in spending policy

By Our Industrial Staff

Britain's building industry is expected to press for a government policy change when it meets economic advisers from the Department of Environment later this week.

At the heart of discussions will be two documents produced by the industry's representative bodies which indicate that even a mild switch of resources to capital spending could do much to support its case with hard economic evidence.

There is increasing frustration within the industry over the Government's failure to direct cash into areas which it believes would create jobs and increase productivity and growth. At the top of the agenda will be the Cambridge Economics study published jointly by five representative bodies last week. The economic forecasting group said that the injection of a sum as small as £500m into capital projects would give the Government far better value overall than could be achieved by using the money elsewhere in the public spending programme.

The industry will claim that a small injection of cash into roads and sewers or housing building projects would result in a far lower net cost to the Government and produce more long-term jobs. Over the past year there have been a number of meetings between the industry and various government departments, but this is thought to be the first occasion that the construction sector has been able to support its case with hard economic evidence.

Government advisers will also be presented with a more ambitious study undertaken by the Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors which showed that £2,000m a year switch into capital spending over the next three years could cut unemployment by as much as 500,000.

The industry expects to gain little from the economic measures drawn up by Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, which will be disclosed later this week. Although it believes that the measures will allow a more flexible approach to cuts in public spending, there will be little comfort

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## Call to ease control on industry planning

By Ronald Kershaw, Northern Industrial Correspondent

The abolition of industrial certificates — the system of controls towards cutting down the number of civil servants as well as getting rid of a superfluous layer of bureaucracy, the Leeds Chamber of Commerce and Industry says.

The Leeds Chamber of Commerce and Industry says in a letter to Mr Patrick Jenkin, the Secretary of State for Industry, that the system was introduced to allow the Government to control industrial development and was used to encourage companies to locate in assisted areas.

Meanwhile the Confederation of British Industry says profitability of industry in Yorkshire and Lancashire is slowly recovering, though for many companies this slight improvement simply means a loss smaller than last year's.

The issue is of particular importance to Leeds because next August the area will lose its assisted status and this system of certificates will come into operation again. This means that businessmen and developers will have to apply for a certificate for developments of more than 50,000 sq ft.

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## Engineers' salaries lagging

By Baron Phillips

Little progress has been made in improving the real earnings of engineers over the past six years, despite large rises in nominal income in the past two years, according to two surveys of the profession published yesterday.

The 1981 Survey of Professional Engineers published by the Council of Engineering Institutions and Salary Survey of Engineering Functions by Remuneration Economics in association with the CEI indicate that the industry is falling seriously out of line with other sectors. This is highlighted at board level where the average financial director is paid £5,000 a year more than his counterpart in engineering.

The same disparity applies at the bottom end of the scale where junior engineers and qualified engineers are both paid less than the average personnel officer.

At least 1,000 new jobs should result from a £10m European Coal and Steel Community loan to help those areas of Scotland hit by coal and steel closures.

Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Scotland, joined Dr Otto Hahn of the Community, Dr George Matheson, chief executive of the Scottish Development Agency and Mr Alick Macmillan, chief general manager of the Clydesdale Bank in Glasgow yesterday to sign the low-interest loan.

The effect of this loan will be at least 1,000 new jobs when all the money is taken up, Mr Younger said. The European Commission loan schemes are £5m with the SDA and £5m with the Clydesdale Bank. Businesses which meet their new job target will benefit the rebate on interest which will give an effective current rate of around 10.75 per cent to the full eight year term the SDA announced.

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## IN BRIEF

### Japan to finance Soviet pipe

□ The Soviet Union and Japan have signed a protocol for a bank loan of about \$8,000 yen (£1,900m) to finance exports of large diameter steel pipe to the Soviet Union.

An official at the semi-governmental bank said the loan would run for not longer than five years, and would carry an interest rate of about 8 per cent.

That interest rate is below the current guidelines of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development which call for Japan to charge a minimum interest rate of 9.25 per cent on all export credits.

The Export-Import Bank official defended the 8 per cent interest charge, however, saying that it was in line with previous OECD guidelines. He noted that the negotiations over the steel pipe export credits began before the new guidelines took effect Nov 16, and said that the old guidelines applied.

□ Mine reopens. Mine, Australia's largest uranium oxide producer, is back in full production after resolving a problem concerning exposure of radioactive material. The mine was shut down by the Northern Territory Government last week.

□ China's oil denial. The Chinese premier has denied that China's oil output is steadily decreasing and that it will soon become a net importer of crude. He told the opening session of the National People's Congress: "I can assure you that this will not happen."

□ Index unchanged. Japan's seasonally adjusted wholesale price index in the second 10 days of November stood at 135.5 (base 1975), unchanged from the preceding 10 days when it fell 0.1 per cent.

□ Exports increase. Dutch exports showed a 1.5 per cent increase in the third quarter compared with a year earlier while imports registered a decline, leading to an improvement in the Netherlands' foreign trade account.

□ Oil flow confirmed. Hudday Oil (Malacca Straits), wholly-owned subsidiary of Hudson's Bay Oil and Gas, said three successful delineation wells in its offshore Malacca Straits area have been tested showing a total combined flow rate along with the discovery well of 35,000 barrels per day.

□ Budget forecast. China expects to reduce its budget deficit this year to 2,700m yuan (about \$812m) from 12,700m yuan last year.

□ Soviet oil helps. Mr Prakash Chand Sethi, India's petroleum minister, said he signed a protocol with his Soviet counterpart with his Soviet counterpart under which the Soviet Union will provide technical help for seismic surveys, drilling and recovery.

□ Japan's surplus. Japan's current account has swung to a preliminary surplus of \$1,778m in October from a deficit of \$73m a year earlier.

□ Oil rig deal. China has signed a joint venture contract with Union Industrielle D'entreprise, a French marine engineering company, to build oil production platforms and rigs in China. The venture is the first of its kind in China.

□ Italian deficit. Italy's trade deficit in October narrowed sharply to Lira 410,000 (£179m) from Lira 2,150,000 (£950m) the previous month and from Lira 2,400,000 (£1,040m) in October 1980. The October deficit was the lowest registered in 2 years.

## Call for banks to cooperate

By Peter Wilson-Smith Banking Correspondent

An attack on wasteful competition among the banks combined with a call for greater cooperation in developing new systems has been made by Mr John Brooks, deputy group chief executive of Midland Bank.

Mr Brooks, speaking at the Retail Banking Conference run by Retail Banker International and the *Financial Times*, said that banks should cooperate on payment systems such as automated teller machines and debit cards, and cheque guarantee and credit cards to avoid a wasteful proliferation of systems.

"We cannot afford to waste national and scarce resources in order to sacrifice at the altar of competition while a customer will ultimately pay the price. This surely is an area for cooperation leaving competition to the range and price structure of the service which individual banks provide," he said.

Mr Brooks said that the agreement among the leading banks to develop a network for point-of-sale transactions in retail outlets was the most important development in money transmission in prospect. Midland planned to combine its cheque card and cash card into one debit card which would eventually be used for point-of-sale transactions.

Mr Mike Lickiss, a Thornton Baker senior partner, said yesterday that the merger with Jolliffe Cork would not alter the firm's rating in terms of size but it would bring Thornton Baker more City contacts.

In a statement, Mr Duncan Bailey, a partner in Jolliffe Cork's Manchester office, said he was anxious to make it clear that the merger announcements in London had nothing to do with the Manchester practice.

City accounting firm in two separate mergers

A national accounting firm, Jolliffe Cork founded by J. J. Jolliffe in 1965 and Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, which will be disclosed later this week. Although it believes that the measures will allow a more flexible approach to cuts in public spending, there will be little comfort

size. The Wakefield office intends, at least for the time being, to remain independent.

Mr Mike Lickiss, a Thornton Baker senior partner, said yesterday that the merger with



BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

# Trafalgar prepares to change course

Trafalgar House has for some time made no secret of the fact that its love affair with publishing in general and newspapers in particular was souring. News has now filtered out that the group is rather closer to biting the bullet than had been thought given the way Lord Matthews, deputy chairman, has personally pinned his flag to Express Newspapers.

What is clear at this stage is that Trafalgar has found the problems of Fleet Street too intractable to justify the amount of management time it has had to spend in the last four years. But it is also saying something about the philosophy of Trafalgar itself. The group's past success has been based on its ability to do the unconventional. Trollope & Colls, Cunard, The Ritz, never quite dovetailed with its property dealing roots. Every few years Trafalgar has to do something equally unconventional to keep up the momentum. After the failure to build on newspapers, Trafalgar is fast approaching the stage when another quantum leap is needed and indeed Mr Nigel Brookes, the chairman, has been hinting over the past year that he is itching for another 1½p to 9½p, yesterday, shows the stockmarket believes that Trafalgar is worth more without its publishing interests than with, and with money in its pocket from the sale of its newspaper and publishing division to boot, there is the muscle for a sizable acquisition financed by paper and cash or a combination of the two.

At the moment the demerger proposals that seem to be gaining credence beg enough questions to suggest that all this may be no more than a stratagem to get a better price out of Associated Newspapers when it tries to get agreement from them to how the middle and lower end of newspaper market should be shared. Certainly Trafalgar has now hung up for sale sign and if it can either succeed with its demerger plans and get the stockmarket to put a value on these interests, or perhaps draw out an offer elsewhere, it will be stronger bargaining position with Associated, which is now in a better shape than when the deal over the *Evening Standard* was done.

Without the property which provided Trafalgar with a fall-safe in the original deal with Beaverbrook, it is anyone's guess as to what the newspaper and the publishing side is worth. Most analysts would not quibble with trading profits this year of up to £8m, but having made more than £6m in the first half this implies a sharp second-half downturn. Moreover, with newspaper prices spiralling — the increase since sterling started to fall has added perhaps £12m to Trafalgar's costs — and advertising showing little improvement, things will get worse next year — and meanwhile, next May's Sunday launch by Associated threatens to cut the ground from under the profitable *Sunday Express*. All the same Trafalgar should be able to garner enough to cover the £15m cost of Express newspapers and the £23m it paid for Morgan Grampian if the property profit on the Standard site is also taken into account. Trafalgar is a company that likes to use other people's tax losses not its own.

## Commodities Will intervention collapse

Current efforts to support prices in the cocoa and tin markets, the one so far rather unsuccessful and the other so far tumultuously successful, only serve to highlight the parlous condition in which commodity markets generally find themselves. It may be melodramatic to see low, stagnant and falling raw material prices — a trend from which not even oil is exempt — as the harbinger of a slump. But it is certainly true that the depressed state of world trade, high interest rates and continuing overproduction of many commodities have forced most raw materials to their lowest prices in real terms for a generation.

The main victims, of course, are primary producers, among whom it should be observed, are developed as well as underdeveloped nations. The

United States and the Soviet Union are the world's biggest producers of a wide range of commodities; American mining companies suffering from low base metal prices are prey to takeovers and mergers.

There is much that is just and equitable about commodity agreements. But the practice has never matched the promise. A summer and an autumn, which have seen the price of every commodity quoted in London except tin fall, have also prompted very different reactions. The heavy support given to tin, allegedly by producers led by Malaysia, first by purchasing forward contracts and in the recent days by accepting spot metal, is but the most aggressive manifestation of producer action. The cocoa producers — rather than introduce export quotas or attempt to curtail overproduction — are seeking more funds for their buffer stock.

But in both cases the producers are effectively shifting the battleground from the negotiating table to the marketplace, the negotiations were intended to tame. This can only make them more instead of less vulnerable to market movements. It is estimated, for example, that the International Cocoa Organization needs \$400m to buy enough cocoa, a sum on which it may be hard to pay the interest.

The tin producers, moreover, are playing a much more dangerous game. Nobody has ever gone against the market so expensively and escaped unscathed. True, they can control production better than the coffee producers whose Pan Cafe organisation collapsed ignominiously last year. Rising tin prices also mean rising tin revenues from the Malaysian mines to the government with which to finance market intervention. Nevertheless, establishing a large holding of spot tin is perilous, especially when the United States General Services Administration is committed to running down its stockpile. Sooner or later someone will have the wit and courage to go against the buying and so prick the bubble. If tin should plummet the £2,000 a tonne some think possible, the tragedy may engulf many other markets and primary producers.

## British Telecom Problems with Buzby bonds

British Telecom still appears to be faced with a considerable struggle if it is to get its "Buzby bonds" to fly. Despite its efforts, together with those of its banking advisers S. G. Warburg and strong support from the Department of Industry, the plan for the bonds has yet to satisfy the Treasury.

It has, of course, taken a long time to get the Treasury to concede the principal of raising funds direct from the private sector (not to mention the relaxation of the external financing limit that looks to be implicit). But now that the Treasury has conceded the principal, BT may well wonder whether its apparent victory is to much avail given the conditions attached to a bond issue.

There would seem to be two main conditions. Number one is that money should not be raised in a way that would constitute unfair competition with the private sector. Number two is that the issue should be constructed to give Telecom an incentive to cut its costs to compensate for the higher cost it will have to pay for direct market borrowing relative to straight borrowing from central government.

At the moment it looks as if the Treasury sees Warburg's scheme as being too generous, allegedly offering a considerably higher return than that available on gilts if all goes well at Telecom over the long term. Whether Warburg feels it can sell something to the market on less generous terms remains to be seen. The whole idea of mixed financing in the case of United Kingdom public corporations has many messy and unsatisfactory aspects, but it would be a pity at the end of the day if Telecom is not allowed to have the courage of its convictions and at least experiment.

## Co-op sets a poser for the 'big four'

One of Britain's clearing banks is about to introduce a current account offering a substantial interest rate.

The Co-operative Bank, which is a subsidiary of the Co-operative Wholesale Society, is admitting nothing in Public Law. But it is under no illusion that customers will be able to choose from early in the new year, between two kinds of current account.

They will either settle for the existing system, under which individuals maintaining their account in credit — no matter how small the credit — pay charges, or they can go for the interest-bearing account. With this they will be provided with an attractive return on the money left in their account, but will have to pay charges when using services like cheques and bankers' orders.

The move is likely to create excitement among other clearing banks. They are often criticised, particularly when interest rates are high, for charging for current account services on the one hand, yet benefitting from interest-free current account balances on the other.

No amount of careful explanation of their "free banking" concessions (transactions are "free" provided a minimum or average balance is left in the account) has served to ease the public's suspicion of this point. Their advantage when interest rates are high, from the use of interest-free current account balances has only recently been backfired with the imposition by the government of a new "windfall" profits tax. The government says that it was a one-off levy but the bankers are taking that promise with a large pinch of salt.

So the idea that the banks should pay interest on current accounts has attractions to bankers, as well as the public. It would silence one line of consumer complaint, and it would eliminate some of the froth from profits at times of high interest rates.

It would also mean that bank charges would rise, but that would not be unwelcome to the bankers. Their cost structure is such that most are vulnerable to any fall in the rates at which they can lend on their interest-free current account balances. If charges did go up to compensate for the payment of interest on such balance, it would eliminate some of the froth, as well as the peaks, in profits.

Barclays chairman, Mr Deryk Vender, recently told an international conference of bankers that some banks might choose to bear the costs of paying interest on current accounts in the interest of improving (the bankers' phrase) cyclical fall in profits when interest rates fall, and avoid damage to their public image in not appearing to make profits in hard times.

But paying interest on one thing, paying a substantial rate of interest is another. At the moment the clearing banks believe it costs them about 9-10 per cent to service current accounts — covering the cost of money handling, money transmission, counter services and so on.

By implication they could not afford to pay much more than 3 or 4 per cent on current accounts, even at present interest rates. But the indications are that the Co-op Bank may pay twice that. If the clearing banks were to pay such a rate and maintain their profits, they would have to bump up their charges substantially.

But as Mr Bander Weyer pointed out in his recent speech, the chances are that competition would prevent them from doing that.

The Co-op Bank is in a position to innovate, at least similar to those of the big four — Barclays, National Westminster, Midland and Lloyd — only because, by one of those happy accidents of fortune, its cost structure is completely different.

The Co-op Bank has never had the strong bank branch network which has in the past, been the backbone of the big four, and now — because of rising costs — has become their bane.

But it has almost 1,000 so-called "Handybanks", at which banking business can be transacted in Co-op Stores, and a further 3,500-odd cheque cashing points in similar locations.

It also has a highly automated, highly centralised customer service operation at Skelmersdale, through which all individual banking transactions are routed.

The net result is that it is in a position to offer its services at low cost — a cost almost certainly lower than the other banks can hope to achieve for all their expenditure on automatic teller machines and other electronic wonders.

So will they try to compete at all? They must. With more than two million account holders the Co-op Bank is not a competitor to be dismissed and this service is likely to



The Co-op's lack of branches is proving a bonus.

## Reagan on collision course with the Fed

Washington

From the start President Reagan's budget policy has been in danger of colliding with the Federal Reserve Board's commitment to tight money.

With budget director Mr David Stockman's influence on overall economic policy likely to be reduced, such collision has become a virtual certainty.

Mr Reagan promised to cut government borrowing, but tax and spending measures which he has proposed imply, on the contrary, a big increase in the federal budget deficit up until 1984.

The President has already been forced to retreat from his promise to balance the budget in 1984.

Outside forecasts show the deficit soaring to between \$100,000m and \$150,000m in 1984 and rising still in 1985 and 1986.

Mr Reagan's dramatic gesture of closing down the government for one day last week was aimed at winning extra spending cuts of a mere \$2,000m.

Even if he wins this battle, his economic programme will swing towards expansion in the middle of next year, when the next round of big income tax cuts comes into effect. Meanwhile money policy is set to tighten. The likely result of such conflicting policies is a renewed sharp rise in interest rates next year when America begins to pull out of economic recession.

Mr Stockman has seen a clash coming for months. Within the Administration, the Federal Reserve's bond increase in defence spending and more recently for some reversal of Mr Reagan's tax cuts, in order to cut the prospective budget deficits and bring budget policy more in line with the target of slowing money growth.

Federal Reserve officials hoped that the public revelation of Mr Stockman's

worries would open the fiscal policy debate, encourage the Administration to retreat from its earlier over-optimistic projections for government borrowings, and push it towards new deficit-reducing measures. This in turn would relieve them of pressure to loosen monetary policy.

They fear that the opposite has become more likely. Mr Stockman was accused of disloyalty and bad judgment in making his doubts about the President's programme public. As a result other Administration officials are uneasy about expressing similar doubts even in private internal discussions.

Caroline Atkinson

to narrow the underlying budget deficit projected to widen in 1983 and 1984, although perhaps a rate cut would induce an increase in government borrowing in the coming months of little importance.

But whereas his message used to be directed at Congress, Mr Volcker is thought to be more concerned about convincing the Administration, and in particular the President, of the importance of reducing government borrowing.

He and other economists agree that without new budget measures, which would almost certainly have to include tax increases, the underlying deficit will rise next fiscal year and in 1984.

However, the President apparently still hopes his income tax cuts, the first phase of which became effective in October, will so stimulate the economy as to almost pay for themselves.

Furthermore, Mr Reagan argues, next year he will propose further domestic spending cuts of such magnitude that if Congress will only enact them, financial markets will at last be convinced that the budget is on the way to balance. This conviction will keep interest rates falling even as the economy picks up.

There are two major flaws in Mr Reagan's argument. First, he suggests that while tax cuts can stimulate the economy, spending cuts do not affect it. Reducing government spending will cut the budget deficit but it will not, according to the President, slow down the economy.

This is wrong. To the extent that Mr Reagan succeeds in holding down government spending and enforcing a more restrictive budget, he will be inhibiting the economic recovery.

The second flaw is that Mr Reagan supposes that with

supply side magic his tax cuts can stimulate the economy at the same time as the Federal Reserve's tight money policy is bringing down inflation.

However, the Federal Reserve's credit squeeze is aimed at fighting inflation by limiting economic growth. It restricts the growth in total nominal gross national product, hoping this will result in reduced inflation. An attempt to pump up demand by tax cuts runs counter to this anti-inflation policy, rather than complementing it as the President claims.

Mr Stockman still shares the President's view that fighting inflation is compatible with strong economic growth. But in his version the trick is accomplished by holding to a more deflationary budget policy, which allows lower interest rates for the same amount of money growth.

In either case, whether through supply side tax cuts or apparently more traditional balancing, there is assumed to be a painless road to non-inflationary growth, which eschews incomes' policy or any other direct government involvement in wage and price setting.

Mr Volcker probably knows better. Federal Reserve economic forecasts for next year are considerably more pessimistic than those so far published by the Administration, although the President's chief economic adviser, Mr Murray Weidenbaum, has given a gloomier revised forecast.

This still assumes a strong pick-up in the economy in the second half of next year, with real growth then running at an annual rate of 5 per cent or more.

If the President finds this pre-election boom in danger of being stalled by the monetary brakes applied by the Fed, he may well decide he would rather sacrifice

tight money than growth. But he cannot control the Federal Reserve. Some people believe that the more he tries to lean on Mr Volcker, the more determined the Fed chairman will be.

Mr Reagan will undoubtedly be widely criticised here if and when he starts to push for easier money. This would be seen as a return to the bad old days. But there is a strong case for arguing that Fed policy is already too tight, and that further progress in slowing money growth would be a bad thing.

Although there is confusion in America as to Britain about which measure of money is the most useful, and whether indeed any can be relied on, there is little doubt that the Federal Reserve has succeeded in holding money and credit very tight this year.

A senior Federal Reserve official commented a few days ago that the economy shows clear signs of being "starved of cash".

This shortage has brought on a recession which threatens to send unemployment back to its postwar peak of 9 per cent of the work force. It has already held the jobless rate at historically high levels for much more than a year. Real interest rates are still extraordinarily high despite rising unemployment.

Meanwhile the underlying rate of inflation — which has been close to 10 per cent — has slipped slightly to 8 or 9 per cent. Money growth on the narrowest measure is targeted to grow by only between 2½ and 5½ per cent next year.

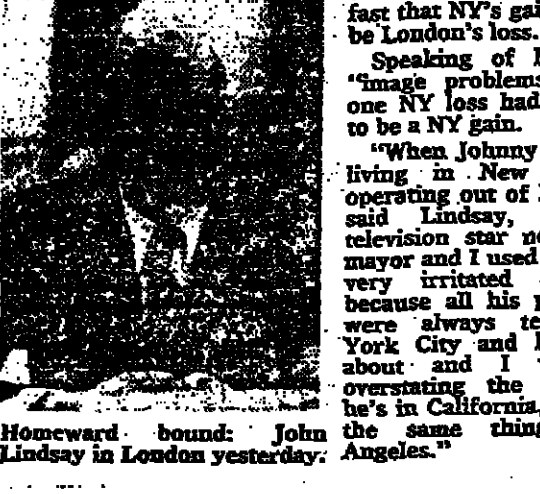
The squeeze is tight. Mr Volcker can probably keep it that way next year, but in 1983 Mr Reagan will have an opportunity to affect money policy which not every President can rely on. Mr Volcker's term as chairman of the Federal Reserve Board expires in January of that year, and the President nominates his successor.

## Business Diary: If it's Monday, it must be London

Twice John V Lindsay paused yesterday from describing the charms of New York for the British investor to ask an aside what day it was.

Lindsay (the "V" stands for Vliet, his mother's maiden name), first hesitated to ask Carlos Basualda. "What day is it today?" Minutes later he again asked Basualda, the London representative of the New York Chamber of Commerce: "Is today Monday?"

Sounding like an American package tourist doing "Very" in two weeks is not quite the style one somehow expects from the urbane ex-mayor of New York, but then he had done the world in four weeks.



Homeward bound: John Lindsay in London yesterday.

Today (Tuesday, if you're reading this, Mr Mayor) Lindsay returns home after visiting Japan, Hongkong, Singapore, Saudi Arabia, Israel, Egypt, France — and London.

He's campaigning not for himself but for his city, as the holder of a new honorary post, conferred on him by Mayor Koch, that of international trade commissioner — as well as doing some business for his law firm.

Lindsay told me: "I'm not running for anything. I don't wish to run for anything and will not run for anything."

London, he went on, should not be afraid of New York banking's going offshore this week. The Euro-dollar market was growing so fast that NY's gain would not be London's loss.

Speaking of New York's "image problems", he said one NY less had turned out to be a NY gain.

"When Johnny Carson was living in New York and operating out of New York", said Lindsay, himself a television star now, "I was a mayor and I used to get very, very irritated at Johnny because all his programmes were always teasing New York City and knocking it about and I was really oversteering the case. Now he's in California, he's doing the same thing to Los Angeles."

Carriage trade

Less than a month from today kids everywhere will be unwrapping new toy train sets, given by doting dads ready to relive their own childhood. For upwards of £600, father can buy the real thing.

A small, but increasing, number of individuals is apparently buying second hand British Rail coaches, doing them up as a hobby and then leasing them to private railways. It seems rather like playing trains on a grown-up scale.

For example, at Peak Rail, a private railway reviving the former British Rail line from Burton to Matlock in Derbyshire, two groups of individuals have each bought an old coach which they are restoring and the railway will run them once it starts operating in a couple of years.

Restoring coaches is "quite a hobby" among preservationists, according to Steve Broadbent, a Peak Rail director, in the same way that "some people will do up an old MG car for fun and then run it about on the roads".

British Rail says it gets about a letter a week from individuals wanting to buy its redundant rolling stock. It sells off between 2,000 and 3,000 coaches a year which it does not want, and as many as 100 of them find their way to preservationists, estimates John Fox of British Rail's Derby office.

Second hand rolling stock brings in about £25m a year to British Rail, most of it from scrap merchants. Unwanted coaches, locos and wagons are sold off by tender, but Fox says British Rail treats preservationists as kindly as it can, although it has abandoned its formal system of giving them first pick after the National Railway Museum in York.

Fox also says he prefers dealing with officials from preservation societies, rather than individuals, but those with an itch to play grown up trains will find coaches costing between £600 and £1500.

There is life after British Rail: locomotive No 73027 (4-6-0) of the Bluebell Railway in Sussex

However, it is the engines that are the expensive bit. There is a lot of scrap in a loco, and if it is from a class that is still running, it will have a spare value as well. You could not buy much more than a middle-sized engine for £35,000 and even a little shunter costs upwards of £14,000.

But at least they will be "in working order." Old coaches are sold off in "a state you would not want to ride in," says Fox.

Sir Terence is back

Almost three months to the day, Sir Terence Beckett, director-general of the Confederation of British Industry, was back in London yesterday. Sir Terence was taken ill during his holiday in Scotland at the end of August and subsequently doctors diagnosed that he had become a victim of a subarachnoid haemorrhage — to you and me a leakage of blood from one of the nervous system blood vessels.

Sir Terence said when *Business Diary* called to wish him well, "I am delighted to be back. I have had all sorts of good wishes from members and staff."

He continued: "We have a great deal to do." Uppermost in his mind no doubt is tomorrow's expected mini Budget statement from the Chancellor of the Exchequer, which the CBI is likely to find wanting.

### The Antique Dealer & COLLECTORS GUIDE

DECEMBER ISSUE

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Ross Davies















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You must be a Solicitor of at least 10 years' standing, have substantial local government experience, a minimum of 5 years as a senior manager, and proven managerial and legal skills of a high order.

As part of the City Council's Equal Opportunity Policy, applications are invited from people regardless of marital status, race, sex or disability.

Application forms (returnable by December 30th) and further details from the Director of Personnel and Management Services, Leicester City Council, New Walk Centre, Welford Place, Leicester, LE1 5ZG. Telephone Leicester (0533) 549922, Ext. 7084.



# Competition Lawyers

We are looking for solicitors wishing to specialise in all aspects of the law affecting competition and regulation of trade in the U.K. and the EEC. This is an expanding area of increasing importance in our practice in London and Brussels and we wish to strengthen our team that handles a wide range of interesting and demanding matters.

Candidates must have good academic qualifications (preferably including either U.K. or EEC Competition Law). Practical experience of this type of work is desirable although interest and enthusiasm for it are more important. Energy and initiative are essential.

The posts might suit members of the Bar who are able to regularly without serving Articles.

Write to: M.B. Munnell, Lovell, White &amp; King

21 Holborn Viaduct, London EC1A 2DY

enclosing full particulars.

LOVELL WHITE &amp; KING

## Secretary's Department

# Articled Clerk

The successful applicant will have the opportunity to take articles in a busy office and will have passed at least five heads under Part II.

Salary: £5,652 - £7,137 p.a.

Application forms and further particulars from City Personnel Officer, Council House, Derby, Telephone Derby 31111 Extension 2144.

This Council operates an Equal Opportunity Employment policy.

Derby City Council

LEGAL ADVISER

BELGIAN EXPANSION COMPANY, together with its subsidiaries, is seeking a LEGAL ADVISER for its London branch. The degree of similar background, same experience in handling contracts is required.

Please apply enclosing CV:

INTERENTREPRISES, Avenue Bois Du Dinard, 23

1150, Brussels.

SOLICITORS Litigation Assistant, £10,000-£12,000 net, prefer full time, 35 hrs. week, 40 hrs. week, 45 hrs. week, 50 hrs. week, 55 hrs. week, 60 hrs. week, 65 hrs. week, 70 hrs. week, 75 hrs. week, 80 hrs. week, 85 hrs. week, 90 hrs. week, 95 hrs. week, 100 hrs. week, 105 hrs. week, 110 hrs. week, 115 hrs. week, 120 hrs. week, 125 hrs. week, 130 hrs. week, 135 hrs. week, 140 hrs. week, 145 hrs. week, 150 hrs. week, 155 hrs. week, 160 hrs. week, 165 hrs. week, 170 hrs. week, 175 hrs. week, 180 hrs. week, 185 hrs. week, 190 hrs. week, 195 hrs. week, 200 hrs. week, 205 hrs. week, 210 hrs. week, 215 hrs. week, 220 hrs. week, 225 hrs. week, 230 hrs. week, 235 hrs. week, 240 hrs. week, 245 hrs. week, 250 hrs. week, 255 hrs. week, 260 hrs. week, 265 hrs. week, 270 hrs. week, 275 hrs. week, 280 hrs. week, 285 hrs. week, 290 hrs. week, 295 hrs. week, 300 hrs. week, 305 hrs. week, 310 hrs. week, 315 hrs. week, 320 hrs. week, 325 hrs. week, 330 hrs. week, 335 hrs. week, 340 hrs. week, 345 hrs. 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## Frank Johnson in the Commons

### Statesmanlike, dignified constructive Mr Faulds

day, to consider a call for an inquiry into the Militant Tendency, and with Michael Foot coming under growing pressure to act against the Trotskyite left, Mr Benn said that the party should not embark on a period of "witch hunting". Morale in the party must be restored but so long

At that point Mr. Orme, one of the Tribunes who withheld support from Mr. Bern in the election, intervened angrily. He was reported to have said "You are complaining about the GMWU. What about the activities of the far-left?"

whether certain Chasubles  
mitres were legal or ill  
in the Anglican communi  
Just as you once had to  
C of E, or at least pro-G  
today nearly everyone has  
be for the arts.

Mr. Channon announced that an important Rubens was to be bought for the Courtauld Institute. Mr. Paulds offered "my heartiest congratulations." Mr. Channon thanked Mr. Paulds for the part Mr. Paulds had played in bringing about the happy outcome. Over in the more cultured section of the House, the Labour aesthetes granted approval, perhaps assuming the picture to be the work of the former chairman of the Coal Board, A.H. Rubens.

**MOON TODAY** Pressure is shown in millibars. **FRONTS** Warm fronts are indicated by a line with triangles pointing toward the cold side. Cold fronts are indicated by a line with triangles pointing toward the cold side. High and low pressure systems are indicated by 'H' and 'L' respectively. The map shows a low pressure system off the East Coast of the United States and a high pressure system over the North Atlantic. The Gulf of Mexico is labeled 'GULF OF MEXICO'. The Atlantic Ocean is labeled 'ATLANTIC OCEAN'. The map also shows the Gulf Stream current flowing from the Gulf of Mexico towards the North Atlantic. The map is a black and white line drawing with a grid of latitude and longitude lines. The title 'MOON TODAY' is in the top left corner. The text 'Pressure is shown in millibars.' is in the top center. The text 'FRONTS' is in the top right. The text 'Warm fronts are indicated by a line with triangles pointing toward the cold side.' is in the top right. The text 'Cold fronts are indicated by a line with triangles pointing toward the cold side.' is in the top right. The map shows a low pressure system off the East Coast of the United States and a high pressure system over the North Atlantic. The Gulf of Mexico is labeled 'GULF OF MEXICO'. The Atlantic Ocean is labeled 'ATLANTIC OCEAN'. The map also shows the Gulf Stream current flowing from the Gulf of Mexico towards the North Atlantic. The map is a black and white line drawing with a grid of latitude and longitude lines.

### ACQUAINTANCE

Rebulet	38	0	32	New York	5	5	41	Tel Aviv	22	72
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